Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-067
Friday
7 April 1995

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Egyptian, Israeli Foreign Ministers Meet on NPT

NC0604183795 London MBC Television in Arabic 1825 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just received a report that the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel, in their meeting in Paris today, failed to reach a formula of understanding between their countries concerning the signing of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

The Israeli minister said after the meeting that the two sides adhered to their positions.

Musa Comments After Meeting

NC0604201295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1935 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 6 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has reaffirmed that Egypt's position on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] is firm. He said Egypt's position has not changed, because it is based on the fact that a nuclear reality exists in the region. Talks and negotiations must be held on this issue, and certain moves and actions must be made, he said.

In a joint news conference with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the end of their talks in Paris today, Musa said: We are discussing extremely important subjects. He pointed out that his talks with Peres were extremely important.

He said he will convey the results of the meeting to President Mubarak today or tomorrow, and Peres will convey them to his government. He added: We will continue to discuss the subject, but the road is still long.

Asked if Egypt will sign the NPT, Musa said: We are not required to sign the treaty; states will vote on it.

Asked if Egypt will accept a conditional Israeli endorsement of the NPT, Musa said: We did not discuss this idea.

Answering another question, Musa said: The road is still long. But the discussion was long and important, concerning both the peace process and the nuclear issue. A number of considerations and ideas were proposed in order to advance the situation and restart talks and negotiations on these issues. This subject cannot be left unresolved.

He added: At any rate, we achieved a kind of framework within which we can talk; and another meeting will be held with Peres after we report to our governments.

For his part, the Israeli foreign minister was content to say only: The situation remains the same. He said he and 'Amr Musa will do everything in their capacity to improve relations between the two countries.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi League Envoy Protests West's Overflights

NC0604154795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1457 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative at the Arab League, sent a memorandum to the Arab League General Secretariat dealing with the violation of Iraqi air space by U.S., British, and French aircraft from 25 to 31 March 1995.

In remarks to reporters, Dr. Najm said that the Iraqi memorandum contains a table of 375 operational and reconnaissance sorties by planes belonging to these three Western countries.

He urged that the memorandum be distributed to the Arab League member states, asserting that the violation of Iraqi air space poses a great threat to many sections of the Iraqi people.

Iraqi Justice Minister Addresses Arab Meetings

JN0504101395 Baghdad INA in English 0850 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, April 5, INA—Meetings of the Arab Justice Ministers Executive Bureau, grouping Iraq, Egypt, Tunisia, the Yemen and Djibouti began here on Tuesday [4 April].

Justice minister and head of the Iraqi delegation Shabib Lazim explained in detail the adverse impact of the economic sanctions clamped on Iraq since August 6, 1990 and the damage left on production, environment and social life, referring that the judicial institutions have been also affected by the ongoing sanctions.

Mr. Lazim confirmed that, despite Iraq has reciprocated all its commitments under the Security Council resolutions, but the sanctions are now threatening by catastrophic consequences, the matter requires the Security Council to satisfy its obligations towards Iraq in accordance with para [paragraph] 22 of the Resolution 687.

The Iraqi minister called upon the Arab countries to move quickly and adopt positive attitudes for lifting the anti-Iraq embargo which constitutes a blatant violation of principles of justice and rules of the international law and the universal declaration of human rights.

The ministerial Executive Bureau expressed sympathy with Iraq so as to overcoming the rising sufferings arising from the unjust embargo.

The Executive Bureau is expected to discuss a package of issues pertaining to the joint Arab action in the field of justice and judiciary.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-NUR 29 Mar

NC0404061595

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 29 March edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-NUR that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. Parliamentary Body Calls For Backing Islamic Propagation
2. Arab League Said To Take Action To Halt Israeli Threats
3. Clergy Says "Israeli Nuclear Allegations Are Worthless"
4. Islamic Information Center To Be Set Up in Sweden
5. Education Minister Sued in Islamic Dress Case
6. Islamic Books Translated Into Chinese
7. Radio Beamed To Central Asian Islamic Countries To Be Opened
8. Chinese Authorities Turn Mosques Into "Secular Schools"
9. Writer Discusses Parallels Between Secularism, Islam
10. Preacher Advocates Introduction of Islamic Shari'ah Law

PARLIAMENTARY BODY CALLS FOR BACKING ISLAMIC PROPAGATION

A 180-word front-page report says the Religious Committee of the People's Assembly has called for the formation of a national committee for mosques to handle renovating, refurbishing, and maintaining mosques nationwide. It also demanded that 10 percent of the garbage taxes in the provinces be diverted for the committee, in addition to contributions and part of the votive offering funds levied in major mosques.

In its report to be submitted to the People's Assembly, the committee called for devising an urgent plan to renovate some mosques and a long-term plan to build newly sanctioned mosques. It stressed the "importance of the mosque's mission to confront all trends opposing Islamic thought."

The committee's report emphasized the importance of financing Islamic propagation programs by earmarking part of the votive offerings levied at the country's major mosques to back Islamic propagation and to prepare and qualify preachers "to confront perverse ideas."

ARAB LEAGUE SAID TO TAKE ACTION TO HALT ISRAELI THREATS

A 90-word report on page 1 cites an exclusive statement to AL-NUR by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. He tells the paper that "the Arab League in the coming stage will take the necessary measures to stop Israeli threats and to try to form a countering Arab force, especially concerning Arab nuclear armament."

'Abd-al-Majid notes "ambivalent" Israeli policy on signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. He is cited as saying that "Israel must sign, otherwise no member country of the league, particularly Egypt, will sign the treaty."

CLERGY SAYS "ISRAELI NUCLEAR ALLEGATIONS ARE WORTHLESS"

In a 100-word report on page 1, "the prominent Islamic preacher" Shaykh Muhammad Hassan tells AL-NUR that "Israel media's allegations and statements that Israel will force Egypt to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty are worthless threats."

ISLAMIC INFORMATION CENTER TO BE SET UP IN SWEDEN

A 60-word report on page 1 says that an Islamic information center will be establish in Stockholm, Sweden. The center, the report adds, will include a section to publish an Islamic newspaper, an Islamic radio station, and a laboratory to translate the Koran's meanings into Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish. The center, which will have a branch in Oslo, will cost approximately $ 500,000, the report notes.

EDUCATION MINISTER SUED IN ISLAMIC DRESS CASE

An 85-word report on page 1 names a citizen who has filed a suit with the State Council against the education minister and the ministry's under secretary in Bani Suwayf. The reason is because his daughter was banned from entering the school "on the pretext" that she wore full Islamic dress. The girl's father claims that he has filed several complaints but the school did not reverse its decision.

ISLAMIC BOOKS TRANSLATED INTO CHINESE

Khalid al-'Atfi files a 70-word report on page 1, saying the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs is currently translating Islamic books into Chinese and that a Chinese language professor has been tasked with the translation.

The report adds that the council has printed scores of books translated into Russian to be distributed in the Russian Federation and central Asian countries. The books deal with several subjects, such as rules of transactions, worship duties, including prayers, pilgrimage, and alms money.

RADIO BEAMED TO CENTRAL ASIAN ISLAMIC COUNTRIES TO BE OPENED

Also on page 1, a 115-word report filed by Majdi al-Daghir says an Information Ministry source has announced that the information minister this week gave his official endorsement to inaugurate a new radio station beamed to central Asia's Islamic republics. The report adds that the Russian-language station will transmit for one hour daily in the first phase.

CHINESE AUTHORITIES TURN MOSQUES INTO "SECULAR SCHOOLS"

On page 2 of AL-NUR, Al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Fattah complies a 550-word report on China's history and geography, Islam's entry into the country, and status of Muslim population there.

The author says: "Recently the Chinese authorities have turned the mosques into secular schools to obliterate the Islamic identity in China." He adds that the Muslim

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population in China has now reached 115 million and that they have established an Islamic association in Beijing with branches all over the country.

He continues: "However, the Muslims' situation is in continual decline after the Chinese authorities' decision to infringe on Islamic sanctities and banning the practice of religious rituals. Only 230 mosques now remain in China since the mosques were demolished, which indicates the dangerous situation facing the Muslims there."

The author says a book was recently written in Taiwan and printed and published in China mocking Islam and Muslims and that this agitated the Muslims and provoked demonstrations.

The report notes that the head of the China Islamic league, which is controlled by the Chinese Government, has warned Chinese Muslims against allowing mosques to be used for attacking the government and the Communist Party. The league head said "A minority has renounced the cloak of religion, disseminated rumors, and used mosques for illegal purposes contradicting the Koran's injunctions."

WRITER DISCUSSES PARALLELS BETWEEN SECULARISM, ISLAM

Page 3 features a 1,200-word article written by Ahmad al-Siba'i titled "Islam is Not a Religion Only for Mosque and Prayers; It Deals With all Aspects of Life".

The writer traces secularism to its origins in Europe and compares it with Islam. He cites a Cairo University professor as saying that secularism cannot be applied to Islam because "Islam is not a purely spiritual religion and a religion meant only for the mosque. It is not only a religion for personal relationship between man and God, but a comprehensive, general, collective religion dealing with every thing concerning the individual, the group, the state, systems, administration, economy, politics, and education." He adds that "Islam is fit for application in all ages and all places until the day of judgment comes."

PREACHER ADVOCATES INTRODUCTION OF ISLAMIC SHARI'AH LAW

AL-NUR's page 4 publishes a 650-word interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Rashid Saqr conducted by Muhammad Ahmad. The paper introduces him as "the one who used to instill fear in the hearts of the Zionist enemy embassy staff members near the mosque." It says, for years, he kept teaching his followers from the podium of the Salah-al-Din Mosque "until the Awqaf Ministry got fed up with him and issued a decree banning him from delivering speeches and deprived the youths and elderly people of this delightful resource." Not only that, the paper adds, the ministry also stopped his salary and banned him from lecturing at universities.

The interviewee reviews his career and life and denies he supported terrorism. Answering a question, he says: "I believed and continue to believe that the state is duty bound to dig a grave and bury man-made laws in it. A presidential decree must be issued as fast as possible to restore Islam and apply Islamic shari'ah because most of the current laws contradict the shari'ah principles."

He asks: "Aren't these the laws which sanctioned adultery and alcohol consumption and legalized larceny and other forms of corruption?"

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Urges International 'Arbitration' in Talks

MM0604112995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Apr 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih and Mahmud Abu-'Id: " 'Arafat: I Call for International Arbitration on Our Dispute With Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has expressed his belief that Israel will not comply with 1 July as a date for agreeing on the Army's redeployment in the occupied West Bank. This is why he said that he will invite the [Madrid] conference sponsors (the United States and Russia) and the states supervising the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, including the EC, Norway, Egypt, and representatives from the Arab and Islamic states and the OAU, to a meeting to be held in June for arbitration on the Palestinian-Israeli dispute.

But 'Arafat has reemphasized in an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he is against the negotiations' suspension, because it is Israel's request. That is what the Israelis actually want, as he put it. Asked how long the Palestinians can tolerate Israeli procrastination, he said that the agreement is international, thus the signatory states supervising its implementation should shoulder their responsibilities.

The Palestinian president was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in his office overlooking the sea in Gaza city in the presence of his media spokesman, Nabil Abu-Rudaynah (who managed to arranged this urgent interview despite 'Arafat's busy schedule), Housing Minister Zakariya al-Agha, Health Minister Riyad al-Za'nun, and a number of other aides.

'Arafat said that the "Janin second idea" was originally a Palestinian idea, on the grounds that the Janin area is almost free from settlements. But the Israelis, as the Palestinian president says, killed this idea by talking about transferring to the Palestinian Authority the municipal administrative powers only, without the Army's redeployment.

'Arafat added that he informed Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at a meeting grouping him, Palestinian Economy Minister Ahmad Quray' (Abu-'Ala'), and Israeli Environment Minister Yosi Sarid that he ran the West Bank's municipal affairs from his office in Beirut,

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and that his proof of this is the overwhelming victory achieved by PLO blocs in the municipal elections held in 1976 in the occupied West Bank.

On the Jerusalem issue, 'Arafat said that the Israelis have created a new reality around Jerusalem city, surrounding it with settlements which he described as a concrete wall.

He said that he managed to see the holy Dome of the Rock and al- Aqsa Mosque from a distance when the Egyptian plane aboard which he traveled from Gaza to Jericho flew over al-Mukabbir mountain, 5 km south of Jerusalem.

An atmosphere of silence prevailed for a short while before 'Arafat started to talk again. A tinge of sadness appeared on his face. He said: "My last visit to the al-Aqsa Mosque was in 1968." He added: "When I was praying at the mosque at the time, I saw a group of Israeli female conscripts and soldiers entering al-Aqsa Mosque's courtyard. I stopped my prayers and pledged not to pray in the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque before Jerusalem is liberated."

The Palestinian president broached the recent explosion in the Gaza Strip, describing it as an irresponsible action. He said, "my responsibility toward my people is to identify the perpetrator. And I wonder: Who is interested in using explosives and manufacturing them in residential areas?" He added: "I also ask: Who is interested in continuing and exploding this situation?"

Abu-Rudaynah, President 'Arafat's spokesman, stressed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Palestinian leadership is accusing no one, and that it is content with the results of the investigation conducted by the Palestinian security forces' command in the Gaza Strip.

On the elections which were supposed to be held last July in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, 'Arafat again stressed the obstacles Israel is placing in the way of these elections. However, he said that recent negotiations between the local government official in the Palestinian Authority and Ya'el Zinger, adviser to the Israeli Foreign Ministry, achieved tangible progress in several areas, most importantly:

1. Consolidating the idea of electing the Palestinian Authority head directly.

2. Accepting the Palestinian proposal to increase the number of the legislative council's members to over 82. 'Arafat here used the phrase "'we cornered the Israelis' when we based our proposal on the reality that existed legally before the occupation, specifically on the basis of the Egyptian and Jordanian laws, which were in force in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip."

It is worth mentioning here that Egyptian law stipulated the existence of an elected council comprising 42 members in the Gaza Strip. While Jordanian law stipulated that half of the members of the House of Representatives in Jordan should come from the West Bank—which meant that the Palestinian legislative council's members should not be less than 82 elected members.

'Arafat stressed the existence of international understanding of the Palestinian position and concern vis-a-vis Israeli procrastination. In this context he cited the British position, which has expressed clear understanding of the negotiations crisis. 'Arafat valued highly British Prime Minister John Major's recent visit to the Gaza Strip, describing it as an official visit to an existing state, in which diplomatic traditions between two independent states were applied, including national anthem and inspection of the honor guard. An aide to 'Arafat pointed during the interview to U.S. Vice President Al Gore's attempt to avoid a meeting with 'Arafat in the Gaza Strip or Jericho. He said that "the Palestinians asked the U.S. Embassy to provide them with the U.S. national anthem, but the embassy procrastinated and did not respond to the request."

The Palestinian President praised the position of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in refusing to grant entry to any Palestinians from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the 1948 refugees intending to perform pilgrimage in the holy places unless they hold a Palestinian passport. According to one of 'Arafat's aides, this issue provoked a protest from the Israel Foreign Ministry. But the Palestinians rejected the protest, pointing out that Israel used to allow the 1948 Palestinians holding a temporary Jordanian passport perform pilgrimage, and the situation is no different, especially as Israel has accepted the Palestinian Passport.

'Arafat considered the Saudi step support for the Palestinian Authority. He said that "the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been generous to the Palestinians by allocating 10,200 places for the Palestinians to perform pilgrimage."

Sha'th on Delegation's Washington Meetings

JN0604212695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, has said that the meeting that he and his accompanying delegation held with representatives of donor nations was successful. The meeting was held at the U.S. State Department. The delegation was made up of Finance Minister Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, Dr. Samih al-'Abid, Marwan Kanafani, and Walid Siyam.

Dr. Sha'th stated that there was an attempt to evade the subject of the deficit in the Palestinian budget. He added: We explained to them the immense losses that the Israeli closure has caused to the Palestinian economy. He noted that without such losses, the Palestinian budget would have been covered by domestic revenues. He said the situation has been worsened by the unemployment problem resulting from the closure and

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the commercial losses of exporters and importers, something which reduced Palestinian taxes and at the same time increased the deficit, which was planned to be covered mid-1995.

Dr. Sha'th said that a preparatory committee has been set up to raise funds and prepare a working plan to be submitted to the donor nations' official conference that will he be held in Paris 27-28 April. He added that important decisions were made during the meeting to support the Palestinian industrial projects. Various issues were discussed, particularly the industrial zones, he said.

The Sha'th-led Palestinian delegation held another meeting with a number of U.S. Department of Commerce officials. The meeting dealt with the issue of free Palestinian trade.

Continuing its activities in the U.S. capital, the Palestinian delegation held meetings and explained Palestinian views. Al-Nashashibi met with IMF and World Bank representatives. Two meetings were held between the Palestinian and U.S. delegations to urge the U.S. side to continue aid and activate the joint Palestinian-U.S. projects, led by the project to establish an oil refinery in Rafah and the project to establish a Marriott Hotel in Bayt Lahiya in the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian delegation held a meeting in Washington with an Israeli delegation led by Uri Savir and including (Shahor), the territories coordinator. Dr. Sha'th said that the meeting dealt with the closure issue and the repressive Israeli treatment of Palestinian citizens. He said that it was agreed with the Israeli side that it is necessary to move expeditiously to open the crossing for goods and vehicles and to use the daily multi-convoy system to the West Bank, the ports, the airport, and the Allenby Bridge. He said that they also agreed to increase the number of vehicles allowed to enter individually and to unload Palestinian trucks to Israeli trucks at the border. He said that the Palestinian delegation stressed the need to open the (Karni) crossing for goods and cars and the need to completely improve the treatment of people at the crossing to a manner befitting their humanity. He said that the two sides have agreed to open the Rafah and Jericho crossings for cars and goods within two weeks.

'Arafat Adviser on Reported Israeli Army 'Plan'

JN0604201095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Apr 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Presidential Office in Gaza today saw a lot of action. President Yasir 'Arafat sent a thank-you letter to Moroccan King Hassan II. The letter was delivered to the Kingdom of Morocco's representative to the National Authority at the Presidential Office in Gaza. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, President 'Arafat's adviser, said the letter expresses President 'Arafat's gratitude to the Moroccan king, who chairs the Jerusalem Committee, for the committee's decision to set up a financial agency for Jerusalem. Abu-Rudaynah said President 'Arafat received a message from the Moroccan king last week in this regard.

President 'Arafat also received a delegation from the Jerusalem Open University to discuss the situation of the university and the obstacles facing its.

In another development, Abu-Rudaynah, President 'Arafat's adviser and official spokesman for the National Authority, commented on reports carried by the Israeli media that the Israeli military command of the central region is preparing a plan to keep the Israeli Army in the West Bank, contrary to the agreements signed. Abu-Rudaynah said the Palestinian-Israeli agreements are clear and unambiguous. We should emphasize the precise implementation of the Declaration of Principles agreement. Otherwise, there could be a serious threat to the entire peace process.

Abu-Rudaynah said the Palestinian position is clear. There is a need for the redeployment of the Israeli forces outside populated regions so legislative elections can be held.

'Abd-al-Rahim: Authority Necessary for Security

JN0604213095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Apr 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Presidency, has stated that the National Authority is the only party authorized to maintain security. He said the minority should respect the opinion of the overwhelming majority.

'Abd-al-Rahim made the remarks in a speech he delivered on behalf of President Yasir 'Arafat during a celebration held by the Arab Liberation Front-Provisional Command on its 26th anniversary. The celebration was held at the al-Ahli Club in al-Shaykh Radwan quarter in Gaza today. 'Abd-al-Rahim stressed the need for national unity to build the homeland. He added that some opposition factions have started asking Israel to implement the Declaration of Principles agreement.

Jamil Shihadah, official in charge of the Arab Liberation Front-Provisional Command has asked the Israeli Government to release all prisoners and open safe passages. He also demanded a halt to Israel's settlement activity. Shihadah reviewed the front's march and the problems it has faced. He stressed his support for the National Authority and called for dealing with mistakes in a democratic fashion.

The celebration, which was interspersed with national songs, was attended by a large audience.

Israeli Paper: Clinton Urged To Dump 'Arafat

TA0704082495 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Shmu'el Segev]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Arab heads of state who have visited Washington recently have reportedly encouraged the Clinton administration to dump Yasir 'Arafat and to support Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) as the new chairman of the PLO.

In private discussion, senior Arab officials said 'Arafat has proven he is incapable of transforming himself from a revolutionary into a statesman, and that the next stage in the peace process necessitates another leader for the Palestinian people.

While stressing that the Oslo accord cannot be reversed, the officials said that the Palestinian people deserve "a more worldly" leader who is "credible and visionary."

They said they have encouraged 'Abbas to return to the territories and take charge of the future negotiations with Israel, but that he claims that 'Arafat insists on being part of all negotiations and, in such a situation, he does not want to be part of a process that would lead nowhere.

Fatah Accuses Hamas of Attempt To Sow 'Sedition'

TA0604173495 Jericho AL-AQSA in Arabic 4 Apr 95 pp 1, 7

["Exclusive to AL-AQSA"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza—Fatah issued a statement in Gaza yesterday about the horrible incident that took place two days ago in Gaza's al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood. In the statement, Fatah called on the National Authority [NA] and all forces of the Palestinian people to shoulder their responsibilities, suppress sedition, and work hand in hand to build the one Palestinian homeland.

Following is the text of the statement:

Masses of our struggling Palestinian people; builders of the state and protectors of the homeland; you who, with your blood and sacrifices, launched the greatest revolution of the era and the greatest popular intifadah in modern history; you who, with your national awareness, epitomized the bases and foundations of the future Palestinian state and raised the name of Palestine aloft despite all the conspiracies and conspirators; masses of our great people:

At a time when our people and the NA are transforming the Palestinian dream into a reality and are moving confidently toward completing the national march and the construction of an independent state, and while we are in utmost need of active national participation by all earnest individuals in order to achieve our great national goals, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] insists on remaining outside the Palestinian trench, squanders Palestinian blood, and strives to kill the Palestinian dream under false, imported slogans. The tragic incident in Gaza's al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood—or rather, the vile massacre of our people's sons perpetrated by Hamas—provides indisputable proof of the scope of its designs, aims, and connections.

Hamas, after having obstructed every possibility of extending the NA's control over the West Bank, prevented the release of our prisoners, caused the suspension of our workers' livelihood, and contributed to the war of starvation against our people's sons, completed the episodes of this dangerous serial with this horrible crime. It then issued a venomous statement which called for sedition and which fabricated stories to cover up the horrendous crime.

We in Fatah, out of concern for our national responsibility, affirm the following:

1. We strongly condemn the abhorrent massacre perpetrated by Hamas against our people's sons, which led to the fall of victims and innocent people, among them martyrs and wounded as well as scores of citizens and Palestinian policemen who suffered gas inhalation.

2. We strongly denounce the fact that Hamas stored explosive devices in the center of a densely populated neighborhood and played with citizens' lives without demonstrating any moral responsibility.

3. The explosive devices discovered by the police at the site following the incident are estimated to weigh approximately 150 kg and consist of different types of devices, some of which were manufactured in Israel in 1994 and 1995.

4. Letters addressed to the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions and calling for setting off explosions inside the Gaza Strip to embarrass the NA were discovered. The sources of these letters are the Hamas leaderships in Iran and other capitals.

5. Hamas, through a farcical statement which contains lies and accusations and which sows sedition, made a shameful attempt to hold the NA responsible for the massacre. We are certain that our masses are well aware of the nature of this attempt, after having seen the scene of the crime and its dead perpetrators with their own eyes.

6. We in Fatah clearly affirm that we will not sit idly by in the face of the enemies of the national interest and will not refrain from carrying out our national and historic duty when necessary. We also call on the NA and its security organs to shoulder their full responsibilities and punish anyone, regardless of his identity, who dares to deviate from our people's will and harm its security, stability, and supreme national interests.

Our noble kin: On this occasion, we extend our most sincere condolences to the bereaved families and wish the wounded a speedy recovery. We appeal to all strata of our Palestinian people and their political forces to play their roles in suppressing this sedition, whose scope is growing perilously through these dubious statements which distort the facts. Yesterday, the crime was in al-Shaykh Radwan. Must we wait for it to happen in

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another place in our steadfast homeland tomorrow? We must resolutely say: Enough, enough, enough.

Yes to Palestinian national unity on the basis of national interests! May sincere efforts grow for the sake of protecting the homeland and the citizens! Total support for the NA, led by our brother leader, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]! Glory to our pious martyrs and shame on the traitors, the agents, and the conspirators!

Revolution until victory!

Fatah's Hani al-Hasan Discusses Oslo, Elections

NC0704073395 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 3 Apr 95 p 8

[Report on interview with Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Movement Central Committee, by Salah 'Azazi; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The chief results of the Fatah Central Committee's recent meeting in Tunis demonstrated in a way that leaves no room for doubt that most Fatah members and leaders oppose the Oslo Agreement and many of its consequences. At the meeting the prominent leading member, Faruq Qaddumi, represented a major trend calling for a halt in the negotiations with the Israelis. Another group stated that the problem lies in the Palestinian negotiating mode, which is always ready to make concessions. The third group, represented by Hani al-Hasan, Central Committee member and former adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, supported a halt in the negotiations but pointed out that it is necessary to conduct field activities to demonstrate the illusory quality of the Oslo Agreement's provisions and show that they will not lead to any progress. This group believes that it is necessary to formulate a unified stance that bars any new concessions. To further this aim, Hani al-Hasan has decided to enter Gaza to mobilize the Palestinians against the Oslo Agreement and its consequences. He will point out that putting continued pressure on Israel by all available means will compel it in the end to recognize the Palestinian people's rights, particularly as 90 percent of Fatah, the main PLO faction, have become Oslo opponents, in addition to the other opposition factions.

At the beginning of his interview with AL-'ARABI, Hani al-Hasan described events in the Palestinian self-rule areas as a strict implementation of Israel's wishes and plans. He pointed out that this has reached the point where the Palestinian Authority's [PA] decisions and measures are in the occupation authorities' hands and do not express the Palestinian people's aspirations.

Al-Hasan added that the feeble agreement signed in Oslo more than two years ago [period as published] was a crushing defeat for legitimate Palestinian rights and an abandonment of the firm principles formerly accepted as a foundation for a just political solution based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

He said: It is regrettable that the provisions of this agreement, a flawed one to begin with, have not been implemented. Israel refuses to withdraw from the Palestinian territories, allow 800,000 refugees to return from abroad, or hold the elections that represent a legitimate Palestinian right.

Concerning the Jerusalem issue, which in a premeditated and intentional way has been kept away from the negotiating table and which is complicated by the building of new settlements and a drive to Judaize the city, Hani al-Hasan said: The Palestinian leadership has perpetrated a crime against the Palestinian people and against everyone who used a bullet, a rock, or a bomb against the Israeli occupiers. It did this when it agreed to postpone the sensitive Jerusalem issue for three years. I believe a Palestinian state would be worthless unless Jerusalem is its capital.

He continued: The Palestinian negotiators must seek to save what they can and cling to their rights to occupied Jerusalem. Israeli residents occupy 70 percent of the city and Israel is trying to swallow up the rest to press its claim that the city is its unified capital. This is the Israeli method of trying to obtain international recognition of this crime. The Palestinian negotiators are responsible for this.

Regarding his expectations about the results of the elections in the Palestinian self-rule areas, in case they are held, Hani al- Hasan remarked: The Palestinian people will reject those who signed or backed the agreement. This is why we expect—and our expectations are very reliable—the candidates who supported the Oslo process to fail miserably in the elections. They will not find anyone to give them votes after their failure and after producing this feeble agreement that has yielded no practical or positive results for the Palestinians. It was Israel that benefited from the agreement and stands to benefit still more because it will get foreign aid as a reward for entering the peace process.

['Azazi] Do you or other Palestinian opponents intend to run in or participate in these elections?

[Al-Hasan] We do not rule out the possibility that we may do so. In fact, we are seriously considering this matter and are consulting with numerous figures active in national Palestinian action over the possibilities of running in the elections as a serious and sober opposition to the Oslo Agreement and to those who signed and defended it without any good results for our Palestinian people. Our goal is to show the Palestinian people and certain leaders that all that was said about the Oslo Agreement is mere illusion. We are confident that Israel will not agree, at least in the foreseeable future, and under the current circumstances, to allow the holding of Palestinian elections. Israel primarily wants to achieve two goals:

1. To reach a settlement with Syria to enable it to take on the Palestinian people and strip them of all powers or rights and to give up any previous obligations.

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2. To achieve the most gains possible through pressure and arbitrary conditions imposed on the Palestinian negotiators and to obtain as many concessions as it can.

['Azazi] What is the truth about the Palestinian opposition in the Fatah organization in particular and its stance on the Oslo Agreement?

[Al-Hasan] Certainly 90 percent of Fatah leaders and cadres are opposed to the Oslo Agreement and its results. They seek to foil this agreement, which has not yet been implemented. They call for escalating fedayeen operations against Israel to force it to withdraw. We support any operations of this kind regardless of who will carry them out because they constitute a direct message to Israel that we will not think that a fair peace has been achieved until after an Israeli withdrawal and the return of the Palestinian territory. Proceeding from its firm stance, Fatah welcomes cooperation with the rest of the opposition groups and the pooling of all Palestinian forces inside and outside the occupied territories with the aim of creating a strong national front to endorse the Palestinian resolution issued in 1988. This resolution expresses national consensus supporting a fair settlement based on the UN resolutions and not within the framework of the Oslo Agreement, which faltered and then completely failed.

['Azazi] The opposition is accused of being weak and lacking in effectiveness and influence despite its vehement and credible views.

[Al-Hasan] This view definitely contravenes the current Palestinian realities, because the opposition has indeed succeeded in rallying the Palestinian public in its favor. The failure of the Madrid and the Oslo course has been confirmed. The warnings that the opposition voiced some years ago have proved right. Also, Fatah was the first to reject Palestinian internecine fighting. The United States and Israel applied considerable pressure to make us clash with and fight Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] and to stir up a bloody civil war to exhaust the resources and potential of the Palestinian national action, which must be directed against Israel. We rejected pressure to liquidate Hamas and refused to raise arms in the face of any Palestinian. We are now coordinating and cooperating with Hamas.

['Azazi] You oppose the agreement. How do you view the Palestinian action in the future from this position of opposition to the PA's retreats?

[Al-Hasan] We believe that the activities and efforts of the Palestinian opposition are proceeding on various levels within the same framework: First, to enlighten the Palestinian people about the dangers and losses resulting from the Oslo Agreement and to call on the supporters of the Oslo Agreement to recognize these dangers and losses.

Second, to coordinate among the opposition groups to chart a political course of action and work out a concept for a final solution unlike the Oslo Agreement, which was prepared to achieve Israel's goals and plans.

Third, to form committees inside the occupied territories of key Palestinian figures opposed to the Oslo Agreement. I myself participated in a meeting that included Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, [former head of the Palestinian side to the negotiations with Israel), Taysir Khalid, Ibrahim Bakr, Shafiq al-Hut, and Salih al-Barghuthi to form these committees.

Fatah Urges Closing of Ranks, Criticizes Israel

JN0704090195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Fatah Movement's higher operational [harakiyah] committee has issued a statement repeating its call to close ranks and promote solid national unity to ensure the realization of the Palestinian people's supreme interests. The movement said this unity requires vigilance against attempts to destroy everything the people have realized.

The committee stressed the need to mobilize all resources to support the Palestinian National Authority in order to reach our legitimate, just goals. Fatah denounced all Israeli practices against our people and land and strongly rejected Israeli attempts to bury the Oslo agreement in Gaza and Jericho by preventing the implementation of the second part of the agreement connected with redeployment in the West Bank.

The Fatah Movement held the Israeli government responsible for all the consequences of this intentional sabotage of the Oslo agreement based on flimsy pretexts.

Fatah denounced attempts to hold the Palestinian National Authority responsible for the painful incident in Gaza that led to the deaths of innocent Palestinian people.

AL-AQSA Editorial Board Replaced With Fatah Cadre

TA0604180095 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Apr 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The decision by Palestinian Authority head Yasir 'Arafat to replace the editorial board of the AL-AQSA newspaper, which is published in Jericho, by a new board comprised from the Fatah journalistic cadre that worked abroad has aroused a negative reaction among the paper's employees and in the Palestinian street. They consider this act another case of interference with the freedom of the press.

'Araiat Urged To Release Gaza Correspondent

TA0604185395 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 6 Apr 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Tahir al-Nunu, AL-NAHAR's correspondent in Gaza, was detained yesterday. AL-NAHAR and those in charge of this press institution call

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on the Palestinian officials to release colleague al-Nunu, particularly in view of the fact that President 'Arafat, from the outset of the Palestinian struggle and revolution at the beginning of the sixties, raised the slogan of freedom of speech, democracy, and the protection of the individual. Two days ago, we received "a statement of clarification" from journalist al- Nunu, but we chose not to publish it in the hope that he would not be detained. Following his detention, however, we deem it our duty, on the basis of the ethics of our profession, to stand by his side in his ordeal, because we fear that his detention may have been the result of rivalry among the various security organs and that he is a victim and scapegoat.

We call on the Palestinian president and leader, who is known by his people as one who treats his sons with the highest degree of ethics and tolerance, to order the authorities to release colleague al-Nunu and close this case which harms all of us, freedom of speech, and expression of opinion.

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Algeria

Central Region Undecided on AIS 'National Amir'

MM0704101595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Apr 95 p 4

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Algeria: Central Region Battalions Have Not Determined Their Positions Yet on Mezrak"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—Islamic sources in contact with armed groups operating under the name of "Islamic Salvation Army Battalions" in the central region have stated that these groups "agree in principle" to pledge allegiance to Madani Mezrak, the "national amir" of the [Islamic] Salvation Army [AIS], but they added that the central region groups have not yet reached a final decision on the matter.

Observers note that the central region groups have maintained silence about Mezrak's appointment despite the fact that over a month has elapsed since his new appointment, which, judging by the "national amir" title, makes him responsible for all provinces in the country. There have been several interpretations of that silence. One is that the central region groups are not satisfied with the new amir, who was previously amir of the eastern region. Another interpretation is that he was appointed without consultation with these groups. It is known that the appointment decision issued by the AIS' Shura Council did not say which regions pledged allegiance to the new amir or whether or not they included the central region.

AL-HAYAH has asked sources close to the central region groups, and there are many, about the position of these groups regarding the AIS amir. They said that consultations are under way between the amirs of the central areas and that meetings have been held for that purpose. They added that, as a result of these meetings, there seems to be "approval in principle of the new amir" but that the matter requires more consultations "and we expect an announcement on this matter soon." They pointed out that the problem "is not Mezrak as a person" but the fact that many groups operated in the central region without having a unified command, as was the case with the eastern region (Madani Mezrak) and the western region (Ahmed Ben Aisha). They said that "there is no disagreement or opposition by the central region groups to the AIS amir but there are 14 battalions in that region with an amir at the head of each one of them. Approval by all requires contacts with every amir." [passage omitted]

AIS' Merzak Ignores Call for Dialogue

MM0404091895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Apr 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Qusayy Salih al-Darwish: "In Letter to Madani and Belhadj Salvation Army Ignores Dialogue, Urges Clear Position Toward Group"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris—Madani Merzak, amir of the Islamic Salvation Army [AIS], has sent letters to President Liamine Zeroual, Army and police forces, politicians, the FIS leaders, and those taking up arms. Meanwhile President Zeroual received yesterday a National Liberation Front delegation in the framework of the consultation and dialogue round he has been conducting for several days. In his letter to Madani and Belhadj, Merzak ignored the dialogue call. And he demanded a clear position from the Armed [Islamic] Group [GIA].

For its part, the [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] Executive Committee abroad has denied the two statements attributed to it and to Rabeh Kebir which the Algerian press has published over recent days. This came in a statement distributed by the FIS committee abroad yesterday. It says: "In view of the tendentious rumors and false propaganda about imaginary victories, and the false statements widely promoted through the media services of the military regime in Algeria, which reflect the state of weakness and despair the proponents of these statements have reached, the FIS Executive Committee abroad categorically denies the two false statements attributed to it recently, the most recent dated 27 March 1995. And the FIS with its legitimate and historic leadership, headed by Shaykhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, stresses that it continues to represent the majority of the Algerian people."

The statement went on: "Thus it conclusively condemns all the terrorist actions carried out against the material and vital interests of the Muslim Algerian people, including subjecting Algerian women to insults, imprisonment, and murder. It stresses that the national covenant document continues to represent a real initiative to secure a just and radical peaceful solution that spares Algeria further destruction and suffering."

The Algerian press attributed a statement to Rabeh Kebir in which he pledged allegiance to the AIS leader—which he vehemently denies.

Meanwhile, Madani Merzak, amir of the AIS, has begun his political activities by sending six letters to President Zeroual, Shaykhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, the Army, the police, ulema and preachers, gunmen, and the political class. The AIS leader urged President Zeroual to get rid of the eradicationist and secular tendency and to refer to the glorious Koran to resolve the crisis from which Algeria is suffering. That is, on the basis of a decisive solution based on the shari'ah—a solution that heals the wounds and calms the excitement.

In another letter he made sharp criticisms of the Army and security forces. It said: "O members of the People's National Army and the security forces...the people did not beget you in order for you to kill or insult them. They begot you, seeking strength after weakness, security after fear, and pride after a long period of colonialism. Be informed that the mission you have volunteered—or you have been forced—to carry out is doomed to failure.

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Because others who were much stronger than you failed to carry out this mission." It also said: "You too fully share the responsibility for the conspiracy and the crime, and military orders are no excuse before God." The letter sent to the Army and the security forces concluded by saying: "Wake up. The era of military dictatorships has gone forever, the iron-fist law has begun to disappear, and the course of history cannot be changed by whims."

Perhaps the most important letter is the one which the AIS sent to FIS leaders Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, urging them to define their position on what is happening on the armed scene in order to eliminate the prevalent ambiguity. It said, "Our daring shaykhs...they also want you to define—clearly—the main foundations of our jihad movement, which we cannot transcend, abandon, or negotiate over, in order to intercept the ignorant people claming knowledge and the slanderers issuing fatwas, who have—as a result of their violation of religion—caused confusion among mujahidin battalions by misleading some people and declaring others unbelievers, relying on incompatible jurisprudence rules that do not apply to what we are experiencing at all." He went on: "When you explain the main elements and foundations of our jihad movement, you will put everyone in the picture, hence facilitating the removal of the trouble-making elements seeking to prevent the nation's sacrifices from reaching their peak."

Although the AIS leader stresses the people's loyalty to the FIS leaders, hence confirming his loyalty to them, coupling this with phrases of appreciation and respect, he "urges" them to define a clear position. He goes beyond that to say: "He urges you not to submit to oneupmanships or pressures. Accustom yourself to right and righteousness. And he encourages you to take the necessary position in order to prevent the inexperienced and shortsighted people from denying the nation the opportunity to achieve victory and return to the fold of Islam." With these words, he moves from the position of someone seeking advice to the position of someone lending advice and caution, without explaining who is meant by "inexperienced and shortsighted." Is it those calling for a dialogue inside the FIS, or those working to prevent a dialogue among armed groups, since the AIS leader did not refer in any of his letters to the dialogue issue, a negotiated political solution, or the national covenant document agreed in Rome.

However, in the letter he sent to the mujahidin he made implied criticisms of the GIA by referring to the extremists declaring the people as a whole unbelievers. In this letter he urges gunmen to be "cautious more than ever before of the intelligence doctrine aimed at splitting the ranks, diluting the jihad, wasting the historic opportunity, harming the mujahidin, and instigating them against one another."

The message says: "Beware of the suspect, conspiratorial elements who have found it easy to mislead the mujahidin. These elements have been formed especially to play this serious role, and they have managed by various means to infiltrate the ranks.and issue fatwas based on no evidence and governed primarily by spite and whims. They spread the rumor that a large group of mujahidin was "a misled group" that should be fought, with a view to igniting the fire of sedition among the fighters, hence achieving the tyrannical forces' objective of destroying the jihad. They also spread the rumor that the people are unbelievers and tyrannical and started to judge them for minor mistakes that can be tackled by good preaching, wisdom, and good example."

It is clear from this letter that AIS leaders have had enough of the GIA's criticisms, hence they urge Madani and Belhadj to take a clear position toward the GIA, instead of the ambiguous general position avoiding making any criticisms of it. That means that contradictions on the fundamentalist scene could turn in the coming weeks into an open conflict, if not a real confrontation.

Islamic al-Nahdah Backs Chirac's Candidacy

BR0304134595 Paris LE MONDE in French 1 Apr 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "France Should Leave the Algerians 'Alone'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Represented by Abdallah Djaballah, the Islamic movement al-Nahdah is the only Algerian organization present at the Khartoum conference, even though, according to a Western source, the secretariat had invited all those who had taken part in the opposition meetings in Rome organized in November 1994 and January 1995.

If the conference "can help us through the organization of demonstrations, this could have a positive influence on the moral of the Algerian people," Mr. Djaballah told us. "But any foreign interference is rejected by the Algerians, whether they side with the authorities or the opposition," he underlined.

As to France, Mr. Djaballah said "we are asking it to leave us alone." On this point, he is more specific: "France, for example, supports a solution aiming to safeguard population security, whereas the Algerian opposition considers that such a solution is not one at all." He added: "Perhaps things will change if [presidential candidate] Jacques Chirac is elected. We are hoping that Chirac will take it."

Interior Minister Assesses Losses at $2 Billion

LD0604185295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif, minister of interior, and local authorities confirmed that losses which resulted from the destruction of economic and social installations had amounted until now to about 100 billion dinars, that is equivalent to $2

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billion. In a speech he delivered at Souk Ahras, the interior minister said the material volume of the losses was equivalent to building 400,000 homes complete with all their vital amenities.

In the face of this, Miziane Cherif stressed that the time has come to leave all the wrong calculations aside and work earnestly and put the country above all other considerations. Our discussion should be about restoring unity. [passage omitted]

President Receives Farmers' Union Delegation

LD0504183695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In continuation of the bilateral talks that President Liamine Zeroual recently started with 15 political parties and national organizations, the head of state received today a delegation from the general union of Algerian farmers led by Abdelkader Naimi. [passage omitted]

Following this meeting, Naimi said that half of the solution to the present crisis that the country was experiencing was to complete to the presidential elections, then move immediately to the parliamentary and local elections.

The secretary general of the Algerian farmers' union revealed that his organization had made proposals similar to those of the other sides, which he described as being acceptable and positive. He stressed that the head of state was open to all proposals.

Moroccan Envoy Delivers Hassan Message to Zeroual

LD0604142395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At his office this morning State President Liamine Zeroual received Mr. Abderrahmane Sbai, minister delegate to the Moroccan prime minister and special envoy of King Hassan. The Moroccan envoy stated on leaving the head of state's office that during the meeting he conveyed a written message to President Liamine Zeroual from King Hassan II, the Moroccan monarch. Mr. Sbai added, moreover, that his visit falls within the framework of the current consultations on issues of common interest between the two countries' leaders.

Southern Regions Declared 'No Man's Land'

LD0304212995 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] With a view to organizing the movement of persons and property in the regions where intense activity is being undertaken to treat and exploit hydrocarbons in the provinces of Ouergla, Illizi, Laghouat, and El Oued, the Ministry of Interior issued a decree dated 12 February last to protect these strategic regions, a matter that requires special measures. Therefore, the four provinces of the southeastern and central Algerian Sahara have been declared no man's land. The movement of persons and property on the roads that cross these regions is restricted to national and foreign workers who work in companies whose activity is related to hydrocarbons, and also to the local populations of these regions. The no-man's land regions cover the zones of prospecting for, and exploitation of oil in the provinces of El Oued, Ouergla, Laghouat, and Illizi, and more precisely in the north of Ouergla around El Hamra and El Bourma. They cover also south of Hassi Bel Garbour [as heard] to Ain Aminas in the east, and also the Tunisian-Algerian borders and the Algerian-Libyan borders. In the Ouest they cover also the national road No. 3.

In order to facilitate the movement of persons and property, the national gendarmerie and security services issue individual permission for this purpose, while companies should apply for permission from the concerned authorities for the benefit of their national and foreign workers, as well as their families. Concerning the population of these regions, the national gendarmerie and security services, according to their respective competence, will undertake a census of the local population and provide them with appropriate permission for movement. In accordance with this decision, special measures will be taken to control the movement of persons and property in these no man's land zones, a task to be performed by the national gendarmerie and security units as well as the national people's army.

Government Opens Radio Station in Tebessa

LD0404211895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The celebrations marking the 38th anniversary of the martyrdom of Cheikh Larbi Tebessi continued at his birthplace, the town of Tebessa. These celebrations were being attended by War Veterans Minister Mohamed Said Abadou, National Education Minister Amar Sakhri, and Badreddine Nouioua, minister delegate to the treasury [name and title as heard]. On the occasion of marking this anniversary, the Tebessa radio station was inaugurated. Reporter Abdelhai Abdelsami reports from Tebessa:

[Abdelsami] The first stop today, was a visit to the project of preparing and repairing Cheikh Larabi Tebessi's mosque and school. [passage omitted] The ministerial delegation's second stop was the local radio station in Tebessa, the inauguration of which coincided with the martyrdom of Cheikh Larbi Tebessi. The station broadcast its programs daily for four hours on FM waves. [passage omitted]

Egypt

U.S. Summit Said To Bolster Economic Ties

NC0604172695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Apr 95

[Report by Nadia Yusuf]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday's Egyptian-U.S. summit between President Mubarak and President Clinton, crowning four days of important and intensive discussions between Mubarak and senior U.S. officials, will no doubt bolster bilateral cooperation in various spheres, particularly in the economic field, by encouraging investments, trade, and joint development.

It is certain that the partnership agreement concluded during the U.S. Vice President's recent visit to Egypt will signify greater U.S. investments in Egypt, more jobs, and increased Egyptian exports.

This is why President Mubarak was careful that the members of the presidential committee born out of the Egyptian-U.S. partnership agreement should be producers and exporters. This committee held its first meeting last night to discuss ways to increase investment, trade, and industrial cooperation between the Egyptian and U.S. private sectors.

Presidents Mubarak and Clinton took care to meet with the members of this presidential committee to demonstrate their support and show that they hope that the two countries' partnership will advance their economic relations on sound scientific foundations.

Despite the numerous other issues he broached during the summit and his meetings with senior U.S. officials, President Mubarak was very careful to focus on the issues pertaining to economic cooperation, because they represent a basic pillar of the Egyptian-U.S. relationship.

More than ever before, the way is now paved for stronger Egyptian-U.S. economic ties, particularly in light of Egypt's continued commitment to economic reform.

Papers Highlight 'Success' of Visit

NC0704062695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Apr (MENA)—The newspapers AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH have highlighted the success of President Mubarak's visit to the United States of America.

In an editorial today, AL-AHRAM says that President Mubarak's talks in Washington were characterized by strong respect and cordiality as well as full understanding of the positions and views the president expressed on the basis of Egypt's central role in the region and its historic, strategic part in finding a just and permanent settlement.

The paper cites President Mubarak's assertion that his visit to Washington helped develop a new concept for relations. We are determined to adopt this concept as a plan for success because bilateral ties are very good and confidence is mutual, the president said.

AL-AHRAM reiterates that these candid words refute the false claims of media campaigns that have tried to fish in troubled waters to hurt the strength and solidarity of Egyptian-U.S. ties.

AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that the success of President Mubarak's visit to Washington paves the way for realizing the dreams of the region's people and enhances their belief that it is peace that opens the door to stability and consolidates development.

The paper says that the talks were dominated by full understanding for the various issues that concern both sides. It adds that Cairo always proceeds from clear principles and endeavors to serve the interests of the homeland, the region, and the international community.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that President Mubarak did not forget to call on the U.S. President to find a solution for the misfortune of the Iraqi people, who are experiencing a shortage in food and medicine, and to allow Iraq to sell part of its oil to curb the suffering of the people who had no hand in what the regime did.

Al-Baz: IAEA Inspection of Egypt, Israel Possible

NC0604091895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0804 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 6 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stated that President Husni Mubarak's important visit to the United States, which concluded early this morning Cairo time, realized the results that were expected from it.

He pointed out in statements before leaving Washington today that this visit reaffirmed the strong relations between Egypt and the United States and that the two sides view this relationship from the perspective of friendship and equality, cooperating as much as their joint interests allow.

He clarified that it is natural for the two countries to have different viewpoints on some issues—just like other countries. He said this does not ruin the atmosphere of relations.

Dr. al-Baz said: During our talks with official sides in Washington, we sensed none of the atmosphere of incitement we saw in some U.S. media recently.

He pointed out that both Republican and Democratic congressmen of the new Congress showed understanding of and were informed about the need to develop and improve relations between Egypt and the United States.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz clarified that some minor progress occurred in the Israeli stance on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and that they now accept discussion of this issue.

Dr. al-Baz described the meeting between the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers to be held later today in Paris as a link in a chain we hope will continue. We hope tangible progress will take place at each stage. He confirmed the importance of having Israel conduct serious negotiations on the Treaty issue.

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Asked whether a mutual inspection between Egypt and Israel is expected, Dr. al-Baz noted that this is premature. But he continued by saying: We think there can be a joint inspection and that the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] will participate in it. He clarified that Egypt has proposed many ideas in this regard to the Israeli side.

Ties with U.S., Nuclear Proliferation Viewed

NC0604133395 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 3 Apr 95 p 18

[From the "Idea" column by Mustafa Amin]

[FBIS Translated Text] What do we want from the United States? We do not want it to follow us nor do we want to follow it. We want to be on the same footing. We do not ask the United States to stand by us in all our battles, but we want it to be fair between us and our adversaries. We do not want to threaten it nor do we want it to threaten us. We do not want to pressure it nor do we want it to pressure us. We do not ask the United States to distinguish us but want it to be fair with us.

We want a relationship based on respect and not only on friendship. Sweet talk will be of no use to us, but genuine stances affirm this friendship. We have a right to differ with the United States and it has a right to differ with us. We welcome a friendship between masters and not one between a slave and a master.

The United States has a right to defend Israel, but it has no right to fight alongside Israel. We only appreciate its circumstances and are aware that Jews in the United States are a force that must be taken into account. However, we cannot understand how the United States can keep silent about Israeli aggression against the Arabs and about expelling the Palestinians from their homes and turning them into displaced people dispersed around the world. We want the United States to know that we are opposed to terrorism and that we fight and condemn it. But this does not mean that we can relinquish our sister Libya, boycott it, or stand against it at the United Nations. There is a strong fraternal bond between us and the Arab countries that has nothing to do with politics.

We welcome the resolution banning atomic weapons but we reject Israel's exception from this resolution, leaving it to wreak havoc in the Middle East and threaten us every now and then with these bombs. The United States has a right to request us to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty but it is duty bound to request Israel to do the same. No one ever said that peace means that Israel should be armed with atomic bombs while we remain disarmed of such weapons.

Egypt has chosen to stand by the Arabs and defend their causes as if they were its own. Egypt fought alongside Kuwait when Iraq attacked it because Egypt considers any aggression against any Arab country as if it were against the Egyptians.

UN Official Urges U.S. Not To Cut Aid

NC0504211795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 5 Apr (MENA)—A senior UN official has warned of the harmful and negative consequences for U.S. policy on Egypt if the United States makes a move toward cutting or reducing its $2.1-billion yearly financial aid to the Egyptian Government.

Dr. Hazim al-Bablawi, assistant UN secretary general and executive secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, said such a measure might cost the United States all its ties, friendship, and the value of the aid it offered over the past 20 years, which amounted to over $25 billion.

In statements to MENA, al-Bablawi, who is currently visiting Beirut, called on Egypt and the United States to show the greatest wisdom in handling this issue and prepare for the day when the aid will end to avoid repercussions contradicting the two countries' mutual interests.

He stressed the need for the two countries to agree on a timetable according to which the aid will be reduced gradually in a way that will create no economic crises but, rather, will help the Egyptian economy to free itself of this aid.

Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Pays Visit

NC0504174395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1558 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Apr (MENA)—Egypt and Vietnam have noted their support for the efforts being made to achieve a comprehensive and fair peace in the Middle East. Vietnam supports the Egyptian stance to advance the peace process and overcome the obstacles Israel places before peace negotiations. Both countries stressed the importance of making the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty a global one so that any country may join. This stance was declared after today's talks between Ambassador 'Adil al-'Adawi, assistant to the foreign minister for Asian affairs, and Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co, who is visiting Egypt.

The Vietnamese official lauded the firm relations between the two countries and stressed his country's desire to promote these ties in every field. Ambassador al-'Adawi said the two sides stressed their desire to expand Egyptian-Vietnamese cooperation in various fields.

Equal Status in Partnership With EU Sought

NC0304195195 Paris AFP in English 1837 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, April 3 (AFP)—Egypt underlined in three days of talks here with the European

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Union that it must be brought up to an equal level in a proposed economic partnership of Mediterranean nations.

"Like any partnership it must be on a give-and-take basis, but you have to qualify Egypt as truly equal. That means you must give Egypt enough of a boost to be on an equal level," Deputy Foreign Minister Sa'd al-Fararjy told AFP at the end of a seminar on the partnership on Monday.

"The negotiations will be laborious but all sides are serious and committed. We are on the verge" of agreement, he added.

The second round of negotiations between Cairo and the EU focused on industrial, agricultural and financial provisions in a draft agreement. The partnership aims to create a free trade zone between the two countries after 12 or 15 years as part of a Mediterranean-wide zone proposed by the EU.

The French ambassador to Cairo, Patrick LeClercq, representing the EU presidency, said that "it is quite legitimate that there be apprehension on the Egyptian side" about the free trade zone.

"The best solution is for it to know what the European Union has in mind," he added.

LeClercq said a European version of the draft would be put before the European Trade Commission this month. Both sides are aiming to conclude a joint draft before the Euro-Mediterranean Conference in Barcelona on November 12.

A third round of negotiations is scheduled for July 10 in Brussels.

In a first round of negotiations held in Brussels in January, the EU proposed beginning the free zone after 12 years, but Egypt asked for a transition period of 15 years.

The EU also committed itself in Brussels to providing Egypt in 1995 a first stage of technical aid worth 25 million ECUs (30 million dollars) for modernization and economic restructuring.

Minister on Oil, Natural Gas Discovery, Production

NC0404172395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi said today that $27 million has been earmarked to finance the development of the Waqar Field gas project in the Mediterranean. This latest natural gas discovery in Egypt lies 17 km north of Port Said.

The petroleum minister added that as part of the development process, a pier will be built for production and lines will be established to link the field with the Port Fu'ad production pier to benefit from the production facilities available there, in addition to future expansion works at the natural gas treatment plant on the shore.

He added that tests on the field confirmed that the daily output may reach 32 million cubic feet of natural gas and 900 barrels of condensates. He noted that five wells have been dug in this area.

Al-Banbi said a joint company named "Port Said for Petroleum" has been established under an agreement signed between the Egyptian Government, the Egyptian General Petroleum Authority, and the National Oil Company to explore and utilize petroleum and natural gas in northern Port Said.

He added that the treatment plant of the natural gas produced by the off-shore fields north of Port Said, which costs $106 million and will be ready in March next year, will be connected to the national gas network between al-Suways and Port Said at a point some 25 km from the Dumyat Road.

The minister said that as part of the crude oil and natural gas exploration efforts, five wells have been dug in Port Fu'ad area and that the Bala'im Petroleum Company is currently developing these fields now that these wells have been sanctioned economically.

NATO Said Training To Confront Islamists

NC0304105195 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Husayn]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-SHA'B has learned that NATO has held intensive contacts with a number of north African Arab countries to transfer NATO's land and sea maneuvers, which it is conducting to confront the Islamic movements, from Spain and France to two north African countries at the end of the year. Sources said that the training scenario includes sea landing on north African coasts to topple political regimes that the West does not want or to prevent the Islamic fundamentalists from reaching power and to check the flow of the so-called millions of refugees fleeing an Islamic rule to south Europe.

The sources said that Spain requested the European countries not to announce these exercises and to conceal military cooperation with the north African countries under a camouflage of economic cooperation in the wake of the resentment caused by the NATO secretary general's statement in which he considered Islam to be the post-Communism enemy of the West.

Information notes that Algeria and Libya top the list as targets for NATO intervention to topple al-Qadhdhafi or to prevent the Islamists from taking power in Algeria amid increasing signs that the coupist government has

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failed to check the democratic tide and abolish the results of the elections which the Islamic Salvation Front won.

It was decided to postpone Israel's participation in these exercises until after progress is made on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and until the Palestinian track is activated. Israel earlier declared that it would participate in naval maneuvers that will be conducted off the Tunisian coast with a number of Arab countries to face them with a status quo. The Arab countries, however, refused Israel's participation at this time and postponed it until after progress has been made in the so-called peace process. Meanwhile, the meetings between NATO officials and Egyptian, Israeli, Tunisian, Moroccan, and Mauritanian representatives aimed at confronting fundamentalists in the region resulted in the formation of several working committees to exchange information among the countries concerned and monitor the activities of the Islamic groups in these countries.

Islamic Forces Urged To Heed Democratic Rules

NC0404152095 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 2 Apr 95 p 9

[Editorial: "No to Suspect Alliances"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The future of any political movement in a pluralistic system can be determined according to its faith in and conviction toward democracy and its conditions. It is insufficient for a political movement to constantly declare that it believes in these conditions. It must show this faith in word and deed. The Islamic groups' stance on this issue raises doubts. Since some of these groups opted for violence and thus placed themselves on the side hostile to the democratic transformation in the country; others, who raised the banner of moderation, renounced violence, and agreed to participate in the legitimate political establishments, still vacillate between their old totalitarian views hostile to democracy and their ostensible defense of democracy. What is more dangerous is that the way they play the political game betrays a large measure of opportunism and tacit collusion with the groups that opted for violence. They still seem to harbor the illusion that if they can keep ties with these groups, they both may survive and stir up the situation to achieve their goals.

The political regime has a right to defend itself against the current wave of violence and to hunt down perpetrators of acts of violence. It also has a right to face those who raise the green banner with their responsibility for acts of violence in general. There can be no preferential treatment: They can either be sincere to democracy renouncing violence in word and deed, or be on the other side rejected by all parties.

Those who entertain the hope of repeating the past experiment playing double games, forget that times have changed and that party and parliamentary life in Egypt is no longer hostage to transitory and opportunistic alliances as was the case in the past. The path of party and parliamentary life is clear and free of secret maneuvers.

We are headed for trade union and parliamentary elections that require all political forces to shoulder their responsibility in defending democracy without suspect alliances. The political Islam forces that wish to participate in accordance with the existing conditions and laws must learn the lesson and extricate any roots with the terrorist forces. They should even have the courage to confront these forces and not have any underhand dealing with them. Otherwise, they will pass the death sentence on their political future.

Doctors' Union Denies Backing Militant Training

NC0304160495 Paris AFP in English 1523 GMT 3 Apr 95

[By Lee Keath]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, April 3 (AFP)—A Muslim Brotherhood-controlled doctors' union denied on Monday [3 April] that its Humanitarian Relief Committee (HRC) was a front for training Islamic militants abroad to carry out attacks in Egypt.

"We perform no work outside the field of relief efforts. This institution has no connection to any military or paramilitary actions," Hamdi Sayyid, president of the Medical Union, told journalists.

"It is irrational that a committee that performs humanitarian work could concern itself with training in explosives or support terrorism," said Sayyid, who is one of the few union leaders not belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood.

"This is a legal organization with many international links and its activities are no less than those of other relief agencies such as Medecins Sans Frontieres," he added.

The HRC has given emergency aid worth more than 3.8 million dollars since 1991 to Bosnia, the West Bank and Gaza, Somalia, Azerbaijan and Yemen, according to union figures.

The comments came a day after police arrested the union's assistant treasurer, Husam-al-Din Husayn, a Brotherhood member and former head of the HRC.

Police said Sunday that Husayn was apprehended "based on confessions" by four people arrested Thursday on charges of training members of the outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah in Bosnia under the aegis of the HRC for attacks in Egypt.

Police said a sixth suspect, Ashraf 'Abd-al-Ghaffar, had fled the country.

Security authorities accused the Brotherhood, which has renounced violence in its bid to create an Islamic state, of trying to make the al-Jama'ah into its "armed wing."

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Sayyid said one of the arrested, Husayn al-Sharqawi, 31, had headed the HRC office in Bosnia and a second, Jum'ah 'Abd-'Ati, was an employee in the union.

However, he said the two others apprehended, Anwar Sa'dallah and Mustafa Darwish, had "no connection to the union or the committee."

He added that 'Abd-al-Ghaffar, another former head of the HRC, had left for a new job in Qatar three months ago and the union had no contact with him since.

Sayyid refused to speculate on a connection between the arrests and a government crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood. "Our only concern is only that the image of the HRC not be shaken in people's minds," he said.

A Brotherhood statement released Saturday called the charges against the HRC "a fabrication" and a "purposeful attempt at slander and distortion."

Sixty-five other Brotherhood members have been imprisoned since the beginning of the year, after President Husni Mubarak accused the group of backing Islamic militants aiming to overthrow the government.

Four 'Terrorists' Killed in al-Minya

NC0704075495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Apr (MENA)—Four terrorists were killed last night during a shoot-out with the security forces in the sugar cane plantations in the village of (Jrays), Markaz Abu- Qurqas in al-Minya. A police officer was slightly wounded in the incident.

An official source in the Ministry of Interior has stated that as the security forces were surrounding the terrorists' hideout in the sugar cane plantations, they came under fire and were forced to shoot back. The four terrorists were killed as a result.

The source added that the first terrorist was Hani Rabi' Rifa'i Hasan, an unemployed graduate of an agronomy school born in Qulubba in Markaz Mallwai in al-Minya. He was an escaped terrorist leader involved in many incidents and wanted in connection with case No. 1039/95 for attacking the mayor's headquarters in Qalubba. Four sentries were killed and wounded in that attack.

The second terrorist was Ahmad Ibrahim Ma'ruf, a student at the Faculty of Science, born in Qalubba. He was a leading terrorist and was involved in many incidents in al-Minya. He was wanted in the same case. The third terrorist was Muhammad 'Ali Bakhit, an unemployed graduate of an agronomy school born in Mallawi. He was a leading terrorist and was involved in many terrorist incidents in Mallawi. The fourth terrorist was Muhsin Muhammad 'Abd-al-Latif Mursi, a graduate of an agronomy school born in 'Izbat al-Salam in Abu-Qurqas. He was a leading terrorist and was involved in recent incidents in Abu-Qurqas.

According to the official source, an automatic rifle, two explosive charges, two locally made pistols, and some shots were found in the hideout.

Two 'Terrorists' Killed in Clash; 11 Arrested

NC0504153495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Apr (MENA)—Two fugitive terrorists were killed today in a mountain cave in the desert of (al-Ruwayhat), Markaz Salim in Asyut Governorate, Upper Egypt, during a clash with the security forces. Eleven other fugitive terrorists were captured in Asyut.

A responsible security source in the Interior Ministry stated that in light of information collected by the security forces about these terrorists and after obtaining permission from the relevant prosecution office to arrest them and confiscate their weapons and ammunition, forces from the State Security Intelligence Department, the International Terrorism Combating Department, the Criminal Research Department, and public security attacked the terrorists' lair this morning. The source added: Shots were fired at the security forces when they neared the target, prompting them to fire back on the terrorists. This resulted in the death of terrorist 'Abd-al-Nasir Hasan Hammad Muhammad and terrorist Rabi' Muhammad Ahmad Hassanayn.

The first terrorist was born on 14 January 1968 in the village of (Nasa), al-Sahil, Asyut and resident in it. He was expelled from the College of Agriculture, Asyut University, and took part in a number of terrorist attacks. He was wanted in the following four cases: the attempt to kill members of a music band, the assassination of Lieutenant Colonel Mahran 'Abd-al-Rahim and his son, the distribution of hostile pamphlets, the plans to assassinate some police officers and members.

The second terrorist was born on 17 April 1971 in Manfalut, Asyut, and resident in it. He had a high school diploma in commerce and was wanted in the following five cases: the killing of Dr. Nash'at Fawzi, the assassination of two policemen, attacks on some Christians, an attempt to assassinate some policemen, and the assassination of three policemen in the Dayrut railway station.

The security source said that the security forces captured 11 fugitive terrorists in Asyut and seized from them a 39-mm automatic rifle, a 9-mm Hilwan pistol with no number, a large quantity of bullets of the same caliber, a motorcycle, and some tools. A large quantity of organizational papers was also seized. The prosecution office was informed so as to start its investigation and it moved to inspect the site and the material seized while the criminal laboratory experts began examination of the captured weapons.

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Morocco

Human Rights Council Appeals to King

LD0604231895 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The proceedings of the Human Rights Consultative Council's 11th session started today in Rabat under the chairmanship of Council Secretary General Mohamed Mikou. The council discussed the totality of the points on its agenda during this meeting.

[Begin unidentified correspondent recordi | At the beginning, Mr. Mohamed Miko highlighted the care, compassion, and attention paid by His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, to the Human Rights Consultative Council, and reviewed the files the council had studied.

The council appealed to the king to issue a noble pardon for the political prisoners, whose number did not exceed 11 people, and those sentenced for crimes connected with the painful events [not further identified], whose number was 413 people, and the sentenced emigres, or those who were being pursued within the framework of the criteria.

Within this framework, he praised the government's decision to settle the file of the missing. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Sudan

Russia Pledges Support for Armed Forces

EA0604193095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sudanese and Russian sides concluded their military talks at the Armed Forces General Command today. This was stated by the Armed Forces spokesman, Brigadier Muhammad Bashir Sulayman, who said the Russian side had expressed complete readiness to support the Sudanese Armed Forces [words indistinct] to rehabilitate equipment in addition to reviving previous military agreements.

The Armed Forces spokesman described the talks as an important step within the framework of supporting the Armed Forces and as a major positive step toward [word indistinct] horizon of cooperation between the two countries, especially in the military field.

[Word indistinct] the Russian military (?delegation) arrived in the country recently and has paid field visits to the Air Defense Force and the Navy in Port Sudan and held discussions with officials of the Armed Forces and the Foreign Ministry.

Foreign Minister Backs Egypt's NPT Stance bat[AL-SHA'B 28 Mar]

NC0504113895 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Mar 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Muhammad Jamal Arafah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The new Sudanese foreign minister, 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, who is visiting Cairo, has declared that Sudan backs Egypt in its current battle over the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. He said that if the onslaught against Egypt because of its NPT stance gets more intense, then it goes without saying that Egypt will not find anyone who backs it more strongly than Sudan. He explained that this is a strategic issue.

The Sudanese foreign minister was speaking at a dinner banquet held in his honor at the Sudanese ambassador's residence and attended by Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri and a group of intellectuals and politicians representing various Egyptian political forces.

Declaring that the Egyptian-Sudanese relationship is periodically subjected to intentional distortion in the media, Taha remarked: In Sudan we believe that the unresolved issues between us and Egypt are not serious enough to justify a break in ties or interrupting the dialogue. No matter how big the differences of opinion and direction between the two countries, they cannot be bigger than those between Egypt and Israel, or any other country for that matter.

Citing the example of 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, the Yemeni Parliament Speaker and leader of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, who visited Saudi Arabia and announced that he would not leave that country until the border dispute between it and Yemen was solved—as indeed it was—the Sudanese foreign minister commented on the suggestion that persistence is necessary to solve disagreements, declaring: If staging a sit-in in Cairo would solve the problem, I would stay here until the issue is settled.

Regarding the Sudanese Government's decisions against Egyptian interests in Sudan such as closing Cairo University's Khartoum branch or halting river traffic between Port Sudan and Aswan, he commented: Sometimes a person is forced to do things that he does not like and wishes his hand was cut off before he did them.

Explaining that the above measures were adopted in certain transitional circumstances, the Sudanese foreign minister pointed out that the Egyptian military intervention in Hala'ib required a response and that the Sudanese public wanted a response to be made. He said that the response came in the form of those Sudanese decisions. He noted that Sudan had previously asked Egypt to cooperate in changing the curricula taught at Cairo University's Khartoum branch but there was no response from Cairo.

Regarding the Sudanese authorities' closure of some Egyptian guest houses, he explained that maintaining such privileges for the Egyptians was no longer reasonable in light of the illogical deterioration of relations.

On the deterioration of relations with Eritrea, 'Uthman Muhammad Taha said that Sudan extended every possible financial and moral aid to Eritrea after it got its

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independence, including medicines and 120 tractors which Sudan needed for itself.

He added: We also gave it substantial moral assistance and arrested the leaders of the Eritrean Jihad leaders and transferred them to Khartoum. We did all this in order to avoid a disagreement with Eritrea and to safeguard the public interest. Nevertheless, leaflets were distributed during the hajj seasons attacking Sudan because of the stand it had adopted. We told the Jihad leaders that conditions in Eritrea were precarious and any tension would create a crisis area near Sudan. Despite all this, the Eritrean leadership attacked us. Why?

The Sudanese foreign minister added: We believe that Eritrea's movement from the stage of liberation to that of reconstruction was behind this attack. Issaias Afewerke's government began to face problems and needed a scapegoat to blame for these problems in order to get Western sympathy and assistance.

Several of those present at the gathering, which was attended by engineer Ibrahim Shukri, 'Adil Husayn, and Majdi Ahmad Husayn, stressed the importance of the dialogue between Egypt and Sudan and praised Sudan's Islamic policies. 'Abd-al-'Azim Manaf, chief editor of the newspaper SAWT AL-'ARAB called on the Sudanese foreign minister to ignore the tendentious Western media and direct the Sudanese media and diplomatic establishment to respond actively to the Western media campaign.

Egypt party leader Jamal Rabi' spoke of his visit to Sudan, noting that there are no barriers between the two nations except in the field of politics, which is now being exercised in an emotional way. He added that he was overjoyed at 'Umar al-Bashir's declaration that if Egypt faces a threat, the Sudanese Army will back it. [passage omitted]

Legal Issues Discussed With Iraqi Minister

EA0604162295 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Official talks between the Sudanese and Iraqi sides on justice and legal issues began at the Ministry of Justice today. The Sudanese side was led by the Justice Minister and Attorney General, Mr. 'Abd-al-Aziz Shiddu, while the Iraqi side was led by Justice Minister Shabib Lazim al—Maliki.

During the talks, it was agreed that a committee to be headed by the two countries' justice ministers would be set up with its membership comprising judicial experts from both sides. It was also agreed that the committee would meet annually and work toward evolving an effective method of exchanging expertise and visits between the two countries with the aim of monitoring legal developments. It was also agreed that Sudanese public prosecution counsels be trained in Iraq and that a law college to train jurists be set up in Sudan.

The two sides affirmed that they would use all available means to expose the conspiracy being implemented by imperialist states aimed at denting the credibility of the two countries under pretext of defending human rights. The two countries condemned the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq and the interference in its internal affairs.

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Bahrain

Minister Reaffirms Faith in Continuing Dialogue

MM0404145295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Apr 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Fu'ad Matar: "Bahrain: Dialogue Continuing"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama—Some government departments in Bahrain are making great efforts to repair what was damaged in last week's incidents in some parts of the state.

Security officials are making exceptional efforts to avert similar incidents. Meanwhile, influential economic, political, and intellectual figures are holding meetings to reactivate the welcomed national dialogue endeavor. [passage omitted]

On the dialogue issue, Bahraini Information Minister Tariq 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that "the dialogue has not been interrupted in the first place. It is continuing, and both the state and citizens believe in it since the establishment of political institutions in Bahrain. And the meetings held under the national dialogue slogan are the outcome of individual initiatives blessed by the government, which had no knowledge of them. This dialogue proceeds from a sincere orientation. As for the point on which participants in the dialogue and the government agree—and it is the main point—it is to first stop the hemorrhage and then talk about the illness and the cure. What is encouraging dialogue is the fact that it is part of the Bahraini people's nature...."

Asked whether he is optimistic that the logic of dialogue will win and eventually defeat those who are burning tires at night, or burning palm fronds by pouring gasoline on them to cause explosions, denying children their sleep, al-Mu'ayyad said: "What has happened is no more than a thorn in a bunch of flowers placed in a vase called Bahrain...."

Opposition Figure on Need for 'Real' Dialogue

NC0604070595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Apr 95

[Interview with Shaykh 'Ali al-Salman, a leading opposition leader in London, by Jihad al-'Idan; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-'Idan] How do you view the latest developments in the Bahraini situation and what has followed the recent meeting between the amir and some religious ulemas?

[Al-Salman] The latest situation, the actions, and the reactions are escalating, especially following the arrest or detention of His Eminence the Mujahid 'Allamah Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir al-Jamri and a number of scholars and ulemas. The recent meetings did not give anything concrete to bring the various views in the Bahraini arena closer. According to my information, the recent meeting was not one involving the language of dialogue or one where the people's complaints and views can be heard, but was a meeting characterized by the language of threats and menaces and not the language of reason and dialogue. This meeting did not make any practical progress. In the past two days and following the meeting, the situation flared up further and spread to other areas that were not involved in the events and the capital began to be more involved in one way or another.

There are a number of observations about this meeting. We can mention some of them. It was not attended by the most influential figures whom the people have given the decision to negotiate and to talk to the state, foremost among whom is His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd- al-Amirn al-Jamri and His Eminence 'Abd-al-Wahhab Husayn. These figures did not attend. The Sunnis were also absent from that meeting. The problem is not a sectarian one to be solved with a group of Shiite luminaries, but one that concerns the whole country. All the other parties must be present in such meetings, which need to be held in an atmosphere that allows the voicing of opinions and a dialogue. But this meeting was preceded by the suppression and killing of people as if they wanted to impose the fait accompli through clubs and weapons. Such an atmosphere can never lead to constructive dialogue. If the state wants to resort to dialogue, then the doors of the opposition, both inside and outside the country, are open. But, before that, it has to show good intentions by releasing the detainees, foremost of whom are the shaykhs and ulemas; by allowing those exiled back; or by giving the Bahrainis the option of returning if they want. Then we can speak with the state in such a calm atmosphere through the figures chosen by the people, Sunnis and Shiites, Islamists and non-Islamists. This dialogue can possibly calm the situation and result in radical solutions. We cannot call the recent meeting a dialogue. We support the dialogue if it is serious and real and not one of political games that try to deceive the people or fragment them.

[Al-'Idan] In light of the developments and the current situation, do you believe that the opposition's legitimate rights can be achieved?

[Al-Salman] When the people acted, sacrificed their sons' blood, sent them to detention, and the mothers and fathers made all these sacrifices, they never thought that they would retreat without achieving their demands. They are continuing just like they started. Something must be achieved that ensures the people's dignity and freedom and makes them feel they are worth something. Otherwise, there will be no peace, stability, or a situation where the citizen can feel he belongs to his homeland, a belonging that imposes on him some duties but which gives him a number of rights.

[Al-'Idan] A Kuwaiti deputy has spoken about the need to grant freedoms in Bahrain and the restoration of the Constitution. How do you assess this statement?

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[Al-Salman] We bless the goodwill efforts made by the sons of the Gulf and the Arab and Islamic world outside the Gulf to bring the Bahraini authorities and opposition closer. We are very proud of the statements made by some Kuwaiti parliamentarians who feel and understand the disease from which Bahrain is suffering.

Video Store Arsonists Linked With Hizballah

MM0604131895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Bahrain: Defendants Admitted Their Link With Hizballah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, Manama, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Well-informed sources in Manama said yesterday that preliminary investigations involving those accused in connection with the incident in which a video store was burned out in the Jidd Hafs area last week have proved their link with quarters outside Bahrain, specifically Hizballah.

The sources said that security services will publish the names of all the defendants soon, pointing out that some of them have admitted their link with a neighboring state instigating them to carry out subversive actions and riots and providing them with the necessary facilities.

The incident in which the video store was burned out last week resulted in the death of employee Muhammad Ghariz (a Pakistani), whose body was found charred. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

U.S. 'Protection' Impacting Foreign Policy

MM0604125995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Apr 95

[Report by 'Abd-al-Wahhab Badrakhan: "Normalization With Israel Is Not a Pressing Matter and the Dialogue With Iran Has Never Ceased"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait—Kuwaiti diplomacy is going through "silent agony" as a result of the constant attempt to reconcile a strong desire to preserve as much as possible of the elements of the pre-Iraqi invasion "formula" and change imposed by that invasion. This agony stems from the repercussions of the invasion and the war that followed it as well as from the "tasks" and requisites imposed by the constant American protection.

For inasmuch as this "protection" has affected various aspects of the internal situation in Kuwait, it has set [Kuwaiti] diplomacy on the course of insuring the "success" of American policy in the region and bolstering it.

This colors the perception of Kuwaiti positions whether in regard to the thinking about the future relationship with Iraq, the current "dialogue relationship" with Iran or in regard to Middle East peace process and the relations with the "hostile countries"). A prominent diplomatic source believes that the repercussions of the invasion have led to a flood of endeavors. For the shock of the invasion and the resultant imbalance of convictions have led to the dispersal of the former internal unanimity.

Though the question of security has emerged as an unquestionable priority, the state had to provide evidence to prove the principal premise that the security arrangements were based on a Kuwaiti unanimity and consequently to try to inject this same conviction into the Gulf edifice within a framework of regional understanding and harmony.

But these arrangements, "which we have obtained by our wish and desire, have their prerequisites, the most important of which is the need to appease American public opinion and the American Congress. This is because we have become one of the spots that are defended by the United States, that is, spots for the sake of which Americans could sacrifice their lives." In view of this, we should, on our part, shoulder our commitment to insure the success of the American policy in the region whether in respect of the peace process or the dual containment of Iraq and Iran."

All these issues are now the subject of discussion within Kuwaiti society, acquiring great depth at some times and less depth at most times but always prompted by "internal politicization."

In this context the diplomatic source touches on the question of normalization of relations with Israel, saying: "We have not gone yet to the extent of raising it as an issue to deal with in practical terms, as there is no acceptance of normalization with Israel or the beginning of acceptance. We have no relations with the Israelis, we have not made overtures for such relations, nor did we ask to have such relations. The Americans, on their part too, did not insist on us having such relations, perhaps because they are fully aware of our conditions.

"There are countries in the region which have played host to Israelis, which have taken part in the meetings of multilateral committees, and this was considered to be part of the normalization process. But nobody has asked Kuwait to take similar steps. But, in view of the prevalent conditions, Kuwait had to manifest its participation in insuring the success of the American policy. Thus we have joined in financing the Palestinian Autonomous Authority though through the World Bank. Kuwait will have to constantly contribute politically to the process of the confidence-building measures."

The diplomatic source has pointed out that so far, the Kuwaiti arena has not tackled the question of "normalization." But the issue is bound to "hot up." Though some quarters have leveled charges against the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry in regard to some Koranic verses which some deputies had alleged were omitted from the Islamic education programs, these allegations were used much more in the internal political wrangling than they were

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used in raising the question of normalization and the formulation of a stand toward it. "But everyone knows that a time will come when the question of normalization will form part of the American protection commitments," the diplomatic source added.

As regards the policy of "containment," and perhaps more so than in regard to the Middle East peace process, the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member countries, including Kuwait, would be required to support American policy.

According to the American perception, Iran is a country that "is connected with terrorism and seeks to impose its influence over the region at the expense of American influence. But in the Kuwaiti perception" we deal with Iran through a continuous dialogue and try to curb the extremist tendencies of some of its politicians, tempting it in this regard by enumerating the advantages it would gain from investments and the economic facilities which would be open to it at a Gulf and even a European level in an attempt to persuade it to refrain from its enthusiasm to acquire a regional advantage which would only bring troubles to it and to us alike. Likewise, we consider the American presence important and essential and cannot be dispensed with except when normality returns to the region. We do not accept Iran's theory about the protection of the weak and consider the Husaynite diplomacy [diplomasiyat al-Husayniyat] which it practices to be a mere act it puts on rather than a matter of policy.

The Kuwaiti diplomatic source points out that relations with Iran have left their imprint on the internal situation in Kuwait. "For there are some groups which are sympathetic to its revolutionary ideas and which want to have stronger relations with it. On the other hand, there are other groups which are opposed to this. In view of this, there is a constant on-going dialogue at present over this matter. The state in Kuwait has been holding dialogues with Iran so as to prevent any relaxation in Iran's attitude toward Iraq and at the same time to show Iran the benefits it would acquire from resorting to moderation and peace. Our margin of maneuver is small, and the relationship between Kuwait and Iran will not develop until a parallel development takes places between Saudi Arabia and Iran."

As for relations with the Arabs, Kuwait has long ago gone beyond the stage of emotionalism and begun to talk about "Arab solidarity based on deterrence." The diplomatic source adds that "strategically, the deterrence should be applied in Baghdad, because we ourselves have no depth. It is on the basis of this that our relations with the Arab countries will be defined."

Despite the fact that there is still a political current which insists on demanding "admissions of guilt" by the "countries which let us down," the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry has abandoned its description of these countries as the "opposing countries," and opened itself to all countries that officially support the need for Iraq's implementation of the UN resolutions. Kuwaiti diplomacy now acts through the GCC, the Damascus Declaration Organization, and the four North African countries [Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, and Egypt]. As to Libya, it has "an international problem," while as to Sudan, "it is internationally marginalized." As to Jordan, it is still hesitant about deciding the form of its relations with Iraq. Unless the regime in Baghdad is changed, [Kuwait's] relations with it will not change, particularly as the continued existence of the Baghdad regime will only continue to put Arab-Arab relations on ice.

Naturally, the probability of lifting the sanctions on Iraq has been preoccupying the minds of the departments concerned in Kuwait inasmuch as it intensifies the internal debate on the repercussions of this. "In this context there are two currents: one affirming that as long as Saddam Husayn remains in power, there will be no scope for lifting the sanctions and ending the siege and that the Iraqi regime was the one responsible for the present sufferings of the Iraqi people and that Saddam himself is finished and that what preoccupies our minds now is who will be his successor." The other current considers that the sanctions will end in being "frozen" and not "lifted," that is, the resolutions will remain and be considered valid "but there might be other separate resolutions adopted providing for some concessions to alleviate the suffering of the people, such as permitting Baghdad to sell larger quantities of oil (and pressuring it to accept this) while imposing strict restrictions on it in regard to the way the oil revenue would be spent.

While both currents agree that Kuwait's dealings with Iraq are now governed by three issues (the POWs, war reparations, and the retrieval of the stolen property), the supporters of the second current favor Kuwait's abstention from "provoking" Baghdad particularly in regard to the South [of Iraq], because any internal confrontation that might take place there under the shadow of the Iraqi regime's superiority might lead to intensive flight of people toward Kuwait.

If the post-invasion repercussions have placed Kuwait in a specific mold, narrowed its margin for maneuver, and prevented its diplomacy from soaring like a "spaceship," as the diplomatic source itself put it, the conditions of the American protection have left their imprint on the internal situation in Kuwait, which is not without its positive aspects such as the upholding of parliamentary life, which, it is becoming more evident day by day, is one of the most important elements which make the regime intrinsically more impregnable.

Saudi Arabia

Information Minister Reportedly Relieved

LD0604211995 Tehran IRNA in English 1546 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, Apr. 6, IRNA—Saudi Arabia's long-standing information minister, 'Ali al-Sha'ir, has been sacked for apparently failing to respond

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to the challenge of dissidents to the ruling al Sa'ud family, according to foreign report.

The weekly intelligence bulletin named the London-based Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights in Saudi Arabia as the most renown opposition group, which has been "distributing scandalous gossip about the Saudi royals."

Reports of demonstrations and economic problems have given the kingdom a more negative image in the international media over the past two years.

'Ali al-Sha'ir is understood to have been information manager for more than a decade. No name was mentioned as a possible replacement.

United Arab Emirates

Dubayy's Foreign Trade Up 2.86% in 1994

JN0504154895 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 2 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by 'Ali Lashin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dubayy's non-oil foreign trade in 1994 amounted to 66,172,745,148 dirhams [approximately $18.031 billion], weighing 10,546,667,566 tonnes. The value of trade in 1993 reached 64,330,844,000 dirhams. Thus, the rise in the value of trade reached 2.86 percent.

Imports amounted to 52,230,143,119 million dirhams. Japan topped the list of Dubayy's trade partners with exports to the emirate valuing 6,885,361,000 dirharms. It was followed by China with 4,937,868,000 dirhams and the United States with 4,320,315,000 dirhams.

South Korea came fourth with 3,920,947,000 dirhams and the United Kingdom fifth with 3,903,752,000 dirhams. [passage omitted]

The value of non-oil exports reached 3,272,901,004 dirhams. Japan also topped the list of countries importing from Dubayy with imports to the value of 558,843,000 dirhams, followed by South Korea with 261,529,000 dirhams, Oman with 209,067,000 dirhams, Taiwan 201,219,000 dirhams, and the United Kingdom in fifth place with 177,804,000 dirhams.

The value of the re-export trade reached 10,669,701,025 dirhams. Iran topped the list of countries to which goods were re-exported with a value of 4,185,827,000 dirhams. It was followed by India with goods valuing 893,697,000 dirhams. [passage omitted]

'Intransigent' U.S. Stand on Lockerbie Criticized

JN0504175295 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 3 Apr 95 p 1

[Editorial: "Factors Disturbing Relations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] One of the factors which disturb Arab-American relations and raise many questions—in fact, doubts and dissatisfaction—is the intransigent U.S. stand vis-a-vis the Lockerbie issue.

The plane was blown up over Scotland and approximately 300 people, from various countries, were killed. There have been many explanations put forward about the explosion, but the United States adhered to the story that two Libyans, who were accused of being connected to the Libyan intelligence, were behind the explosion. Consequently, the Libyan regime was held responsible for the crime, and America called for extraditing the two Libyans to the United States to stand trial. The European allies joined America in its demand and the Security Council issued a resolution imposing sanctions on Libya.

Libya, however, rejected the demand to try the suspects in America, which convicted the two Libyans, even before they were tried. There were many attempts to convince the Americans to try them in any other place, such as Scotland, or before an international court to give them the minimum level of justice. This is because Libya has always believed that Washington does not seek justice, but wants to exploit the issue to serve the objectives of its anti-Libya policies, which reached the point of launching aerial raids on Libyan civilian targets, including the residence of al- Qadhdhafi himself.

Washington rejected any solution that does not include the extradition of the Libyans. It also refused to ease the international sanctions imposed on the Libyan people in a blatant attempt to humiliate Libya and starve its people.

Although all the Arabs, including Egypt, complied with the sanction resolutions imposed by the Security Council, they were not satisfied with the steps aimed at starving the fraternal people, particularly when they compare this to the U.S. exaggerated appeasement of Israel.

This is one of the topics Egyptian President Mubarak is discussing in his current visit to Washington. We hope that this visit will result in removing some of the factors disturbing relations between the Arabs and America.

BCCI Trial Adjourned While Defendants Sought

NC0504130695 Paris AFP in English 1140 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, April 5 (AFP)—Ten former BCCI [Bank of Credit and Commerce International] executives appeared in court here Wednesday [5 April] accused of fraud and other offences but hearings were later adjourned to June 14 after the judge asked lawyers to try and bring back three absent defendants, court officials said.

After a three-hour session behind closed doors, the judge asked the prosecution to bring back former BCCI chief

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executive Mohammad Saleh Naqvi, who was extradited to the United States last year just before he was sentenced to 14 years in prison by an Abu Dhabi court.

The other two defendants summoned by the judge are: the founder of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, Agha Hasan Abedi, and former treasurer Ziauddin Ali Akbar, who is serving a six-year jail term in Britain in connection with the BCCI scandal.

Court sources ruled out the return of any of the three, as Naqvi was sentenced to 11 years in jail in the United States last year while Abedi, a Pakistani, has been resting in his home town of Lahore since falling ill three years ago.

"How do you expect Abedi to appear in court when he is paralysed and cannot hear or speak?" an Abu Dhabi lawyer asked.

It was the sixth trial since both the prosecution and the defence appealed against earlier court verdicts last year.

In June 1994 the Abu Dhabi criminal court condemned 11 of the 12 former BCCI executives accused of fraud to prison terms ranging from three to 14 years.

The defendants, mostly Pakistanis with British citizenship, were also ordered to pay compensation of around nine billion dollars to United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al- Nuhayyan and other BCCI owners.

BCCI was shut worldwide in 1991 after allegations of massive fraud said to have involved more than 10 billion dollars. It was one of the largest financial institutions in the world before it collapsed and triggered one of the biggest financial scandals in modern history.

Abu Dhabi, the top oil producer in the UAE, owned 77 percent of the bank. It has offered 1.8 billion dollars in compensation for the more than 250,000 creditors, who are expected to be paid this year.

Yemen

President Salih Notes Reduction in Armed Forces

JN0604195095 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Apr 95

[From the "Follow-Up On the News" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Republic of Yemen's population now stands at 15,804,654, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani announced at a large ceremony held at al-Shawkani Hall in Sanaa this morning. The ceremony was attended by brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic.

The president delivered an important national speech, at the outset of which he expressed his happiness to attend this national ceremony. He thanked the staff of the Ministry of Planning and Development and the Central Statistics Department for their efforts to accomplish this national mission. [passage omitted]

The president said the principle of reward and punishment must be strictly observed. Anyone who manipulates public funds or administrative office should be dealt with firmly. Our great people have accepted the government's decisions and have been a great support for the government, just as they helped the government confront the elements of secession and apostasy. Our people have also been of great help, when they offered their lives and property. Every minister and official in charge is fully responsible for overcoming corruption in his own agency. Enough financial and administrative confusion. Those who believe there is no punishment and control are mistaken and deluding themselves. Honorable people should deal firmly with any traitor, opportunist, or corrupt person. The principle of reward and punishment must be observed.

The president added: There is no doubt that we have a huge legacy of divisions from colonialism, the imamate regime, and the four-year-old crisis in the homeland. All these have created large burdens for the state. Reforms have started with the Armed Forces. The number of the Armed Forces has been reduced. Around 50,000 soldiers have been pensioned or discharged. There is no longer any justification for increasing the number of the Armed Forces, since the sedition was stemmed and the domestic problems were resolved. Therefore, expenses must be cut and imbalances must be corrected. All officials should start with themselves and correct any personal mistakes before someone else corrects those mistakes for them. The Yemeni people are watching. No official should think that the Yemeni people are unaware of corruption or corrupt people. Those people will be referred to court to receive their punishment for the financial and administrative corruption they have caused. Reward and punishment must be observed. Some people took advantage of the crisis and the war for personal interests. All those who violate the law, disrupt order, and violate the Constitution must be taken to account. [passage omitted]

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'Aziz Meets Nonaligned UN Security Council Envoys

JN0604181195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1657 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 6 Apr (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz began his talks with UN Security Council member states, today, Thursday.

The deputy prime minister held a meeting with the ambassadors of the Nonaligned Movement's member states at the UN Security Council. The ambassadors represent Oman, Nigeria, Indonesia, Rwanda, Botswana, and Honduras.

Tariq 'Aziz arrived in New York last night on a new visit to the United Nations.

'Aziz Discusses Kurdish Issue, Regional Peace

AU0604160195 Hamburg STERN in German 6 Apr 95 pp 192-194

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz by Mario R. Dederichs in Baghdad; date not given: "Iraq Does Not Threaten Anyone"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Dederichs] What are you doing about the invasion in the north?

['Aziz] We cannot do anything. The autonomous Kurdish territory is currently not under our control.

[Dederichs] How do you assess the Turkish invasion?

['Aziz] The Americans see it like this: The Kurds who are attacked by the Turks are terrorists, whereas the Iraqi Kurds are freedom fighters. However, they are the same people who are doing the same thing. The Turkish Kurds are fighting against the central government in Ankara and the Iraqi Kurds are detaching themselves from the central government in Baghdad. They commit murders and bomb attacks. The Americans protect them. This is a double standard.

[Dederichs] The no-fly zone in northern Iraq has been violated by the Turkish Air Force....

['Aziz] Yes. The Americans stopped their control flights in order to make the Turkish attack possible. We only hope that the Germans will not apply double standards like the United States.

[Dederichs] You were recently in Paris. Will you also visit Bonn?

['Aziz] We have proposed that and we are waiting for an answer. We want Germany to interpret the UN resolutions in the Security Council in a fair way and in accordance with the law. No more than that.

[Dederichs] Has Iraq fulfilled all UN disarmament demands?

['Aziz] The UN special commission for Iraq has expressed satisfaction about the nuclear and chemical sector, ballistic missiles, and inspections. Only one field is still open.

[Dederichs] Twenty metric tons of ammunition for the production of biological weapons has gone astray. What has become of this material?

['Aziz] I do not want to go into details because they are confusing. I do not think that this question is insoluable. We are working on it. It is a fact that Iraq's capacity to produce mass destruction weapons has been either destroyed or is completely under UN control. Iraq does not constitute a threat to anyone.

[Dederichs] Can you guarantee that Iraq will not have a relapse after the sanctions are lifted?

['Aziz] It is up to the UN Security Council, which can reintroduce the sanctions anytime, to guarantee this.

[Dederichs] Do you expect them to be gradually lifted?

['Aziz] According to UN Resolution 687, the embargo should be completely lifted.

[Dederichs] The United Nations also expects concessions in the question of human rights.

['Aziz] This has nothing to do with economic sanctions.

[Dederichs] But with Iraq's credibility.

['Aziz] The Security Council also does not say: We will prevent Saudi Arabia from exporting oil until it observes human rights.

[Dederichs] UN official Max van der Stoel has called for a visit of a human rights commission. You rejected that.

['Aziz] We are not prepared to deal with Van der Stoel. He is not fair and it is not up to him to judge whether the Iraqi Government treats its people correctly. Only the Iraqi people are entitled to do this. If they are dissatisfied with their government, they can replace it. They have done it in the past. We are not kings and princes!

[Dederichs] Do the Iraqis think that it is appropriate to mutilate criminal offenders?

['Aziz] What is wrong about that?

[Dederichs] You think that it is right to cut off people's hands, feet, or ears?

['Aziz] This form of punishment is laid down under Islamic law.

[Dederichs] Where is the branding and tattooing of offenders laid down in the sharia?

['Aziz] When we introduced the amputation of the hands of thieves, our disabled veterans protested. They said: We will be mistaken in the streets for thieves. Therefore, the tattooing of the forehead is regarded as an Iraqi specialty.

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[Dederichs] How long will it take to rebuild the country's economy when the oil revenues flow again?

['Aziz] The development will be rapid, also regarding the standard of living of the people, who are suffering badly from the sanctions.

[Dederichs] Do you need foreign partners as in former times?

['Aziz] Perhaps not to the same extent, but we need material and experts for reconstruction.

[Dederichs] Will preference be given later to companies that are concluding contracts with Iraqi firms now?

['Aziz] That is correct. The countries that help us in hard times will get clear advantages.

[Dederichs] Then Germany would come near the end?

['Aziz] That is your own decision. The German economy knows Iraq very well and it is welcome here again.

[Dederichs] Will there be real peace in the region?

['Aziz] We would like to see that. Permanent peace is in Iraq's best interest. Our people have suffered from war for 15 years.

[Dederichs] Iraq spends one-fifth of its budget on the military. Neighbors like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are concerned about that.

['Aziz] What is Iran currently doing? Do you see how much it is pursuing rearmament? Or Israel. We have to take precautions.

[Dederichs] Is Islamic fundamentalism a danger for your country?

['Aziz] We are not afraid of it. This society has enough power to balance between Islam and modernity. Iran continues to be the greatest danger for us.

[Dederichs] Do you support the peace agreements between Israel and the Palestinians?

['Aziz] We have not done anything against it. We have been put in a cage and are prevented from playing our normal role in the region. Therefore, no one can expect positive contributions from us.

[Dederichs] Is Iraq again striving for a dominant role in the Arab world?

['Aziz] No, no. At best, as an example of development. The way in which Iraq has survived these difficulties, the devastations of the war, will encourage the Arabs to build modern societies.

[Dederichs] You do not regret anything in retrospect?

['Aziz] I do not regret anything. Two years ago, I said in New York that I have not come to excuse myself, either on behalf of my country or on behalf of my leader. I stick to that position today.

Further on Saddam Dismissal of Chief of Staff

NC0604152495 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from Baghdad confirm that tyrant Saddam Husayn has dismissed Chief of Staff Ayad al-Rawi because desertions from the Iraqi army are steadily increasing. These reports say that the tyrant has appointed a new chief of staff in an attempt to prevent large numbers of deserters from joining the Iraqi opposition.

It should be recalled that the Iraqi regime recently dismissed the 5th Corps commander, Nasir Sa'id, in the wake of the military defeats it sustained during the recent fighting between the regime's forces and the Iraqi opposition.

Vice President Confers With PLO Executive Member

JN0604160195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 6 Apr (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has received Sakhr Habash, member of the PLO Executive Committee. Habash conveyed greetings from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to President Saddam Husayn. He reasserted the Palestinian people's pride in the pan-Arab stands of the Iraqi leadership and people, their heroic steadfastness in the face of enemies, as well as their defiance of the unfair blockade.

Taha Yasin Ramadan asked Sakhr Habash to convey President Saddam Husayn's greetings to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. Ramadan stressed that the Iraqis shall adhere to their principled pan-Arab positions. He said they shall continue to champion the legitimate rights of the Arab nation.

The vice president further noted that the Iraqi people will thwart the blockade through their steadfastness and hard work. He reviewed the Iraqi achievements in the reconstruction drive in spite of the blockade. These achievements will bring down the wall of the blockade. America and its agents think that the blockade will discourage the Iraqis from proceeding with their reconstruction and development campaign, he noted.

The PLO Executive Committee member lauded the honorable stands of the Iraqi leadership and people, stressing that Iraqi steadfastness is a source of pride for the Arabs and a weapon to face all the methods of the enemies and their evil schemes.

Ministry Calls Turkish Moves 'Flagrant Violation'

JN0604122095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 6 Apr (INA)—Iraq has renewed its call on Turkey to immediately withdraw its

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Armed Forces from Iraq's territories and to stop using these territories as a springboard for the American-British aggression against the sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity of Iraq.

In a statement to INA today, a responsible Foreign Ministry source reiterated Iraq's strong condemnation of the Turkish military invasion and its categorical rejection of pretexts floated by the Turkish Government to justify its military operations inside the Iraqi territories.

The responsible source considered the military operations by the Turkish forces in the Iraqi territories a flagrant violation of international law and the provisions of the UN Charter, which were ignored by the Turkish Government, in addition to their being a violation of good-neighborly relations with Iraq.

The Iraqi source held the Turkish side fully responsible for any delay in the withdrawal of the Turkish forces from the Iraqi territories and for the complications and grave consequences that will result from it.

The source indicated that the invading Turkish military forces have been in northern Iraq since 20 March. They continue to violate the sovereignty of Iraq and the sanctity of its territories and airspace by means of their warplanes and heavy weapons and military hardware, inflicting severe damage on civilian property and endangering the lives of the Kurdish Iraqi citizens.

The source refuted the Turkish Government's allegations that the reason behind the deterioration of the situation in northern Iraq is the absence of the central Iraqi authority, which allegedly led to disorder that was exploited by the organizations and fighters of the Turkish Kurdish Workers Party to launch terrorist attacks inside Turkey from northern Iraq.

The Foreign Ministry responsible source said this pretext totally conflicts with the facts and developments that have occurred in northern Iraq since 1991. Besides, it seeks to cover up Turkey's role in these developments. The source stressed that the deterioration of the security situation in northern Iraq was the result of the colonialist U.S.-British interference in northern Iraq, in which the Turkish territory is being used as a springboard—with the approval of the Turkish Government—to support the armed rebellion in northern Iraq militarily, materially, and politically, within the framework of a large-scale and multifaceted plot that is targeting not only Iraq but also Turkey.

The source said the Turkish Government then hosted U.S. and British warplanes on Turkish soil, which served as the staging ground for these planes to impose the no-fly zone in the Iraqi airspace in the north. This is an illegitimate and illegal measure aimed at perpetuating the conspiracy against Iraq.

The source added that the Turkish Government then adopted a double-standard policy vis-a-vis an intertwined and interrelated issue, that is, the insurrection of armed Kurdish bands in northern Iraq and southern Turkey. The Turkish Government is using military power to crush the Turkish Kurdish rebels and it alleges that this is why it is invading the Iraqi territories. In the meantime, it is cooperating with cliques of Iraqi Kurdish rebels and is extending direct and indirect assistance to them.

The responsible source added that fumbling, using double standards, and remaining silent about the U.S.-British plotting against Iraq, and using Turkish territories as a base, will not help Turkey solve its problems. The reverse is true because Turkey's problems have been aggravated due to that and they will get even worse.

The source said: We have emphasized to the Turkish Government and reemphasize that the problems threatening the security of Turkey and Iraq have resulted from the interference of the United States and Britain in the affairs of the region, especially through the exploitation of the rebellious Kurdish gangs in both countries. The source stressed that this interference aims at disturbing the security and stability of area states without discrimination, especially Iraq and Turkey. The source said the Turkish Government will be gravely mistaken if it imagines that Turkey is excluded from the U.S. scheme.

The official source added that this overlooking of the clear fact that the armed Kurdish rebellion in Turkey has exacerbated and worsened since the U.S.-British intervention and following the imposition of the no-fly zone in northern Iraq through Turkish territory is extremely astonishing.

Concluding, the official source at the Foreign Ministry said that exporting domestic problems, falsifying facts and realities, remaining silent about the U.S.-British conspiratorial scheme, and invading Iraqi territory will not resolve the Kurdish problem in Turkey.

KDP To Cooperate With Turks on Border Security

NC0604171795 Paris AFP in English 1616 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ankara, April 6 (AFP)—Iraqi Kurdish leader Mas'ud Barzani has agreed to cooperate with Ankara on border security after Turkey's troops withdraw from northern Iraq, a Turkish diplomat said Thursday [6 April].

"We will examine certain possibilities for such a cooperation in the coming days when Mas'ud Barzani visits Ankara," Cenk Duatepe said on his return from talks with the leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

The diplomat, part of a Foreign Ministry delegation which met Barzani at his headquarters in Salah al-Din outside the Turkish-occupied zone in northern Iraq, did not specify the kind of cooperation being planned.

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But he said that a November 1992 deal with the Iraqi Kurds had failed "and this time the system will be different."

After a Turkish incursion into northern Iraq to flush out Turkish Kurd separatists in 1992, the two sides agreed on joint border posts to keep out the PKK rebels but the plan was never executed.

Duatepe said his delegation had failed to meet Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan which has clashed with the KDP since last May, for "technical reasons of security and our timetable."

The KDP, meanwhile, said Barzani had held "frank and serious talks" with the Turkish officials.

"The talks were focused on ways and means to stabilize the situation through a prompt withdrawal of Turkish troops from the region and entrusting the border security to the local people," it said.

Barzani, in a statement received in Nicosia, also sent his condolences to Turkey on Thursday for the murder of three Turkish Red Crescent aid workers in north Iraq.

"We are deeply distressed and saddened by the death of Turkish Red Crescent aid workers and the Kurds who were caught at the wrong time, at the wrong place," said the KDP leader.

The three Turks were killed along with five Kurds in a clash on Wednesday near the city of Dahuk.

The KDP thanked the Red Crescent for its services to the Iraqi Kurds and conveyed the Iraqi Kurdish people's "sincere condolences to the families and the Turkish authorities."

Witnesses said the eight Turks and Kurds died when a crowd of Kurdish mourners attacked a car carrying the Red Crescent workers.

It was the first such incident since Ankara mounted a military incursion into north Iraq on March 20 to hunt down Kurdish separatist guerrillas using the region to launch cross-border raids into Turkey.

The Kurds attacked the car at a petrol station on their way to the funeral of seven shepherds they say were killed by Turkish troops, a charge which Ankara denies insisting it was the work of the separatist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

Turkey also accused the PKK of manipulating the clash with the Red Crescent.

"Although tension is running high between Turkish troops and the Iraqi Kurdish population ... the KDP has urged its supporters in Dahuk province to observe maximum restraint to prevent violence and retribution," Barzani said.

PUK Forces Reportedly Repulse 2 KDP Assaults

NC0604164695 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At midnight on 4 April, a force from the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] launched a desperate assault on a Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] peshmerga position in [name indistinct] in Irbil Governorate. The peshmerga confronted the attackers and succeeded in (?repulsing) them and inflicting heavy losses on them.

At 0400 yesterday, KDP gunmen again attacked our forces in [names indistinct] from several directions. The PUK peshmerga defeated them in short order and forced them to flee.

It should be recalled that the attacks by KDP gunmen come in the wake of two major defeats in the areas of (Janjan) and Irbil and at a time when the steadfast Kurdistan masses are following up with their good offices to end the internecine fighting.

Kurdish Civil War Playing 'Into Saddam's Hands'

MS0504103895 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 5 Apr 95 p 15

[Report by Amberin Zaman: "Kurds Turn Iraqi Safe Zone Into Killing Fields"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Salah al-Din—"We will never surrender to mass genocide or brutal dictatorship; we will fight till every last drop of our blood."

In Iraqi Kurdistan, hackneyed rhetoric such as this is usually kept for speeches against President Saddam Husayn. But Mr Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, a prominent member of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) was referring to a fellow Kurd leader, Mr Jalal Talabani and his Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

For nearly a year, the two main Kurdish factions in northern Iraq have engaged in a vicious feud to become the main power in the Western-protected enclave.

More than 3,000 people have died in clashes which have shattered any illusion the Iraqi Kurds ever had of living together in peace.

Mounting pressure from Western governments on whose charity the Iraqi Kurds depend has failed to produce a truce. "The PUK understands only one language," said Mr 'Abd-al-Rahman, "the language of force."

Such talk is the norm these days in Salah al-Din, a picturesque mountain village once a summer playground for apparatchiks of Iraq's ruling Ba'ath Party but now the KDP military headquarters.

Mr Mas'ud Barzani, the KDP leader, along with his guerrilla commanders, is refining the latest strategy to

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capture the strategic city of Irbil, following several botched attempts over the past week in which nearly 300 fighters died.

It is hard to believe that less than a year ago, Irbil was the seat of the Kurdistan regional government, formed after the Kurds' first parliamentary elections 1992.

Here, Mr Talabani and Mr Barzani would pose together for foreign journalists at the now defunct Kurdish parliament before launching into fiery speeches about setting an example of democracy for the rest of the Middle East.

Now Irbil is threatening to become a new Sarajevo.

"We had an historic opportunity to show the world that we could run our own affairs. We've failed," said Mr Shazad Sa'ib, a senior PUK official.

"Barzani thinks he's the true leader of the Kurds. So does Talabani, and they'll fight each other down to their last peshmerga (fighter) to prove themselves right," said an aid worker in Salah al-Din. "They have simply been unable to make the transition from tribal warlordship to real statesmanship."

Divisions between the parties have been sharpened by a virtual carve-up of the enclave, with the KDP controlling Dahuk province, a traditional Barzani stronghold, and the PUK holding al-Sulaymaniyah and most of Irbil province.

The fighting has also disrupted aid programmes. Mr Stafford Clarry, of the United Nations, said: "Now we have to get written permission from the KDP for every one of our trucks before they can cross into PUK-held territory and vice versa."

Atrocities by both sides, rivalling those of Saddam, have been catalogued in the first Amnesty International report on the Iraqi Kurds.

"Who are we supposed to be protecting? People who are busy knocking each other off?" asked an irate diplomat. "It's excruciatingly embarrassing and it's playing straight into Saddam's hands."

Members of the Iraqi National Congress, the umbrella group for all the main Iraqi opposition parties, which is leading a campaign to topple the Iraqi dictator from its headquarters in Irbil, agree.

Mr Bahr-al-'Ulum, a leading Shi'ite opposition leader said: "This bloodshed between our Kurdish brothers is proving disastrous for our joint cause. Talabani and Barzani have a moral responsibility to end the fighting immediately, not only for the sake of the Kurdish people, but for that of the Iraqi nation as a whole."

Protest Lodged Over U.S. Actions Against Ships

JN0604102995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 6 Apr (INA)—Iraq has asked the UN secretary general to intervene according to his responsibilities as stipulated by the UN Charter in order to prevent the recurrence of provocative U.S. actions against Iraqi civil ships.

In an official message to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali today, Wednesday [day as received], Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent UN representative, said these actions represent a flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and security. Hamdun added that these provocations confirm the premeditated hostile intentions harbored by the U.S. Government against Iraq as well as the U.S. insistence on provoking Iraq in its territorial waters in order to create pretexts that will justify the U.S. actions against Iraq.

He said that on 24 March, a U.S. helicopter intercepted the Iraqi vessel "al-Fida'" while sailing in Iraqi territorial waters from the al-Basrah silo to the Umm Qasr silo.

Daily Claims U.S., UK Blocking Medical Supplies

JN0704073495 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 24 Mar 95 pp 1, 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad (INA)—A responsible source at the Ministry of Health has accused the United States and Britain of pressuring the UN Sanctions Committee to prevent Iraq from securing medicine, medical supplies, and milk. In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency correspondent, the source said U.S. and British pressure has prevented several international pharmaceutical companies from honoring their commitments to send the medicine and medical supplies for which contracts were signed and money paid before 2 August 1990. This, he said, proves the inhumane policy those states pursue and the hostility they harbor for the Iraqi people.

The source added that the hostile policy the United States and Britain are pursuing against Iraq to inflict great harm on its people reflects both states' biased aims. They insist on continuing the unfair blockade on the Iraqi people; a blockade which has increased the death rate among Iraqi children and mothers and spread infectious diseases.

The source explained that by depriving Iraq of the orders made in the contracts with those companies, including such essential medical supplies for surgical operations as anesthetics, surgical thread, and blood bags, has greatly reduced ordinary and emergency operations, increased deaths, and complicated medical cases. The source referred to the shortage of accessories for x-ray machines which, he said, has created big problems which further aggravated the suffering of patients, whose medical treatment requires laboratory tests. The source called upon the international community and humanitarian organizations to work seriously and effectively toward lifting the unfair blockade and ending Iraq people's sufferings, which have exceeded all limits.

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Ba'th Party Issues 48th Anniversary Statement

JN0604175895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 6 Apr (INA)—The National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has said that the birth of the Ba'th Party effectively pooled the Arab people's forces and championed the toiling masses against despotism, exploitation, and corruption.

In a statement marking the 48th anniversary of the Ba'th Party's foundation, the National Command added that the Ba'th Party's entrance into the arena of struggle was a victory for the cultural confrontation against colonialism, those who support fragmentation and their interests, and all manifestations of subservience, backwardness, stagnation, and isolation.

The statement pointed to the vanguard role the Ba'th Party has played in the battles of liberation and independence waged against all forms of occupation and aggression in Palestine, in the eastern gate of the Arab Homeland [reference to Iraq], and wherever the foreigner extended his arm on Arab territory.

The statement said: The Ba'th Party resisted the suspect alliances and, along with late leader Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, created the first unity in modern Arab history between Egypt and Syria in 1958. It also did its utmost to resist the dictatorial regimes and hostile forces. The Ba'th Party was the first to call for freeing Arab resources and nationalizing oil in the Arab Homeland. Moreover, it championed the causes of national and cultural minorities and is still leading the defense of the Arab masses' causes.

The National Command emphasized that the Arab nation is passing a test of pride, awakening, and survival and will triumph thanks to Iraq under President Saddam Husayn, the symbol of this nation's loftiness and sacrifices. It sticks to the virtues of steadfastness, adhers to the values of honor and renaissance which represent a firm tie, and clings to the justifications of the Ba'th Party's existence and worthiness in the arena of struggle.

The Central Command pointed out that the will of the nation, of the Ba'th Party, and of Iraq was clearly shown in the reply to the conspiracy designed to fragment the nation and in the victory over charlatanism and falsification, as well as in defending our nation's history and spiritual values in Saddam's glorious al-Qadisiyah.

The statement added: This has qualified the Ba'th revolution to engage in the historic confrontation and great duel, the Mother of Battles, which came as a reply to the defeats, setbacks, corruption, and the lack of justice regarding both the rights and the disposal of the nation's resources.

In its statement, the Central Command stressed that the Mother of Battles was the path of believers and that it proved the seriousness of the faithful pan-Arab awakening project which expresses the nation's tendency toward progress and the making of history. The individual model and the legendary epic have proved the merger between will and thought. They also proved that the Ba'th Party's representation of the pan-Arab liberation struggle was sincere.

The statement said Islam, which has a special status and constitutes a substantial part of the Ba'th Party's thinking, is the most important part in the formation of the Arab cultural character and its spiritual and civilized texture. It has protected the nation from loss during the severest times of degradation and devastating waves. Islam has been, and continues to be, the guarantee for the pan-Arab future and a great force in the battle of awakening and human cohesion.

The statement added: Stemming from this fact, the Ba'th Party has had a firm and balanced revolutionary viewpoint which comprehended Arab thinking, stimuli, and the responses that expressed both the negative reception of world heritage and the ideologies of the age.

The National Command statement reviewed the Ba'th action plan, which was the outcome of the struggle of the Ba'th Party and its faith in the nation, democracy, basic freedoms, political pluralism, the social and cultural frameworks, and the exercising of economic activity within the limits of the nation's interests.

The statement said: Although the identity of the revolution in Iraq is clear and based on the principles of liberation, democracy, social justice, and respect for human rights, it used to clash with the strategy of the world forces which seek to impose their tyrannical will on—and safeguard their interests and influence in—the Arab homeland.

The statement noted: In order to seize energy resources and to support the Zionist entity, the atmospheres of pouncing on and carrying out a military aggression against our nation have continued every time the nation gets close to reaping the fruits of its struggle and sacrifices. This was also achieved by creating hostile atmospheres and fighting any Arab progress. The confrontation reached a peak when attempts were made to deprive the Arabs of industrial and technological advancement.

In its statement, the National Command said: Iraq, which is besieged by the force of arms and arrogant policies, is an example of the cultural confrontation between the pan-Arab awakening project and the colonialist containment plan. Iraq's splendid steadfastness in the face of the policy of blockade has turned into a real trial of the West's credibility in adopting the issues of justice, democracy, and human rights under the unilateral U.S. hegemony.

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The statement praised Iraq's steadfastness on the road of jihad and construction, and its strong and principled determination to face the challenges under the unjust blockade in a way which goes far beyond the enemies' calculations. The statement considered the attempts to obstruct Iraq's role a prelude to hampering pan-Arab awakening, liquidating the Palestine question, and aborting the Arab awakening. It said that this is the enemies' strategic objective of entrenching the Zionist entity and imposing its hegemony on the entire region.

Concluding, the National Command statement said: Forty-eight years of the Ba'th Party struggle have enhanced its maturity and intellectual and militant preparedness. This qualified it to wage the great Mother of Battles under the leadership of a historic hero; namely, President Saddam Husayn.

The statement stressed that the formulas of confronting the colonialist-Zionist expansion necessitate bolstering the methods of struggle and inspiring the spirit of the Mother of Battles and its militant and humanitarian examples of mobilizing the nation's resources to confront trusteeship, subservience, and the logic of brute of force.

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Egypt Said Fearful of Nation's Nuclear Power

TA0704135495 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Apr 95 p 13

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Paris correspondent Mordekhay Haimovich]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Egypt fears that Israel's nuclear weapons may be directed against it rather than other Arab countries in the region in the event of a crisis, an Egyptian diplomat claimed recently in a meeting with an Israeli colleague.

In an attempt to explain Egypt's aggressive policy against Israel's nuclear capability, the Egyptian diplomat said that according to an analysis conducted by senior levels in Cairo, Egypt would be the main target of Israel's nuclear weapons. According to him, Iran is too far away, Iraq "is finished anyway," while Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinians are so close to Israel that using nuclear weapons against them might affect Israel itself.

The diplomat added that Israel is wrong in attributing the initiative for the nuclear dispute to Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. The official said that the stringent guidelines on the issue come "from somewhere else," but refused to elaborate. He apparently meant that the driving force behind the initiative originates in the Egyptian president's office rather than in the Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted]

Jordan Said To Allow IDF Eastward If Attacked

TA0704140695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Apr 95 p A3

[Report by Shahar Ilan]

[FBIS Translated Text] HAMODI'A, Agudat Yisra'el's mouthpiece, yesterday published remarks attributed to a senior Jordanian source whereby "the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will be allowed to cross into Jordanian territory eastward by land and air if Israel is attacked by either Iraq or Iran." The source claims that in exchange, Israel agreed not to impede the transformation of the port of al-'Aqabah "into Iraq's lifeline to the world at large."

The front-page report was written by the paper's military correspondent, Yisra'el Katzover (under the byline A. Pe'er), who toured Jordan this week. According to him, "the military significance of the understanding reached between Israel and Jordan is that in case of an attack, Israel would be able to establish a front line very close to the sites from which Scud missiles were fired in the Gulf war."

Katzover adds that "ever since the opening of the road from Baghdad to al-'Aqabah—the land bridge linking Iraq to the world—Israel has been turning a blind eye to the hundreds of ships and oil tankers docking in the port and the thousands of trucks driving on the roads."

The report goes on to say that "goods are continuously unloaded from ships docking in the port, as the Jordanians work intensively to expand the port southward." To that end, they are taking advantage of "a new plot of land they received from the Saudis in a land swap deal, which gave them another 12 km of beachfront south of the city." A terminal for ferries that will sail from al-'Aqabah to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and, in the future, Elat as well has been built on the new plot of land.

Jordanian Envoy Sees 'Difficult Transition Period'

TA0604162095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan's first ambassador to Israel, Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, arrived this afternoon. He walked across the Shaykh Husayn Bridge and then took part in a reception in his honor on the Israeli side. Al-Mu'ashshir told reporter Arye Gus that as ambassador, his main task is to turn peace between the two governments into a peace between the two peoples:

[Begin recording] [al-Mu'ashshir] I feel this is a really historic moment, a moment that signifies the end of long decades of hostility between our two countries. I hope this will also signal a beginning of a new era and a new process that would lead to a comprehensive peace in our region which all the countries of the region, not just Jordan and Israel, would enjoy the kind of stability and prosperity that peace would bring.

[Gus] Before coming, you said in Jordan that you face a few challenges and that this is going to be a very difficult period. What do you mean by this? What challenges do you think that you will face now?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] I think that we should look at this era as a beginning of a process and not the end of one. We have signed a peace treaty between our two countries, and this in itself represents a major step forward, but I really think that there is a lot of work ahead of us to do in order to translate this peace between governments to one between peoples and, as such, there is a difficult transition period where the average man of the street has to feel the benefits of peace and has to feel that peace has indeed brought tangible improvements in his daily life. In order to do that, as I have said, requires a transition period, requires agreements on other issues between us that have not been settled yet, such as the refugee problem; the problem of Jerusalem, of course; the problem of settlements; and it also requires agreements on the other tracks: the Palestinian track in particular, and the Syrian and Lebanese tracks as well.

[Gus] On the other hand, how can you explain to the Israeli public that the Jordanian Parliament hasn't until now abolished anti-Israeli laws?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Well, there is certainly opposition in Jordan to the peace process; however, this opposition is constitutional, and the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel has been ratified both by the government and in

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parliament. Parliament has not met yet in order to discuss the anti-Israeli laws in parliament. The government has submitted the draft law to repeal all boycott laws to parliament. Parliament, through the opposition, has succeeded in preventing a quorum for the session, but it does not have a majority to prevent the passing of such a law, and we feel confident that all these laws will be passed in accordance with the treaty. [end recording]

Rabin, Rabinovich, Comment on Ross Meetings

TA0704074695 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 Apr 95

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dennis Ross, the U.S. State Department's coordinator for the peace talks, last night met with Chief of Staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq and senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers for a discussion of the security arrangements within the framework of the arrangement with Syria. Israel suggests that the officers' talks resume and move on to the next stage of negotiations on the security arrangements, despite the fact that no agreement has yet been made on defining the security principles, mainly the definition of equality in the security arrangements.

According to the Israeli offer that Dennis Ross will deliver to Syria today, the chiefs of staff talks will resume while the ambassadors continue discussing the definitions. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said yesterday that he is awaiting the results of Ross' visit to Syria:

[Begin Rabin recording] It is still early to make assessments. It is only the beginning of the visit, as part and in continuation of talks that took place in Washington. We are interested in continuing the talks, but this naturally depends on the other side. [end recording]

Israel is ready to accept parity in the security measures, but not identical implementation, mainly in demilitarizing territories on both sides of the border. Israel has offered not to make the resumption of the military talks conditional on agreements on reaching security definitions because it believes that there is a need to create a feeling that progress is being made. Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, said:

[Begin Rabinovich recording] We still hope that the visit will aim forward and not deal with debates that could have ended two or three weeks ago. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 7 April publishes a front-page report by Moti Bassok who adds: "Israeli sources claimed yesterday that following an order from Syrian President al-Asad, no progress has been made in the past three weeks."]

This morning, Dennis Ross will meet with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres after meeting last night with Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir in preparation for his meeting with Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza today. He will leave for Damascus this afternoon, and Israeli political sources hope Ross will hold a parallel professional discussion with Syrian Chief of Staff Hikmat al-Shihabi. He will return to Israel on Saturday night [8 April].

Sarid Urges Evacuation From Netzarim Settlement

TA0704084295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Environment Minister Yosi Sarid has said that the government should soon decide to evacuate Netzarim in order to set a precedent for evacuating a settlement. According to him, Netzarim is a thorn in our side, an isolated settlement in a Palestinian ocean, and a place that attracts trouble—which is why Israel must regurgitate it so as not to choke on it. Minister Sarid told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that the government must act now to create an irreversible political situation.

Ministry Plans 'Widespread Building' in West Bank

TA0604161395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer is to bring before the Ministerial Committee on Construction in the Territories a plan for widespread building in Judaea and Samaria. Qol Yisra'el's diplomatic affairs reporter says the plan includes construction in the settlement of Matityahu of 1,300 housing units and in Ma'ale Adumim of 3,000 apartments. The Housing Ministry is requesting the go-ahead to rent or sell some 60 apartments in Qarney Shomron to families living on the settlement, along with the sale of another 25 housing units for students in the yeshiva there. The Housing Ministry is also asking the ministerial committee to endorse the completion of plans for some 800 apartments in Giv'at Ze'ev.

Further on Plans for Construction

TA0704083695 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Herb Keinon and Jon Immanuel]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer will ask the ministerial committee on settlements Sunday [9 April] to approve plans for an additional 5,600 homes beyond the Green Line.

At the same time, a senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] source said there is no plan to evacuate settlements in Judaea and Samaria in any of the redeployment plans for this year, but there are contingency plans for not redeploying at all.

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According to the Oslo agreement, the issue of settlements is not supposed to be negotiated until next year.

Media reports, based on a Housing Ministry document, said Ben-Eli'ezer will submit plans for the construction of 1,800 homes in the haredi settlement of Qiryat Sefer in the Modi'in region, 3,000 in Ma'ale Adumim, just east of Jerusalem, and 800 in Giv'at Ze'ev, just northwest of the capital.

In addition, Ben-Eli'ezer reportedly will ask for approval to sell or rent 85 of the 200 homes in Qarney Shomron in Samaria that the government built, but never put up for sale. The committee will also be asked to approve the sale of 35 mobile homes to the settlement of Betar, in Gush 'Etzyon, to be used by schools there.

Ben-Eli'ezer would not comment on the reports last night.

Environment Minister Yosi Sarid said that Meretz is steadfastly opposed to the addition of any new residents in the territories.

Peace Now, which is planning a protest vigil outside the Prime Minister's Office when the committee meets, issued a statement saying that if the committee approves the plan, "it will undermine the peace process it is trying to advance."

The ministerial committee was set up in January after the controversy concerning building on Giv'at Hatamar in Efrat, to more carefully monitor construction in the settlement.

In its first meeting in January, the committee approved plans for construction of 1,800 homes in Ma'ale Adumim, 900 in Betar, and 800 in Giv'at Ze'ev. [passage omitted]

Patrol Hit by Blast Near Gaza; Soldier Injured

TA0604180595 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Apr 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A soldier was moderately wounded this evening when an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol drove over an explosive charge and was attacked with gunfire near the border fence at the Nahal 'Oz crossing. The patrol opened fire at suspicious-looking silhouettes seen in the area. The wounded soldier was taken by helicopter to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba. IDF troops are currently searching the area to make sure that there are no other explosive charges in the vicinity.

Histadrut's Ramon Reinstated in Labor Party

TA0704083195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Apr 95 p 22

[Report by Sarah Honig]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Histadrut Chairman Hayim Ramon and 284 other people expelled from the Labor Party yesterday received letters reinstating them.

This follows the party central committee's recent decision to rescind the letters of expulsion to all those who campaigned against Labor in municipal elections since 1989 and in the 1994 Histadrut campaign. This officially opens the door for Ramon and MKs [Knesset members] 'Amir Peretz and Shmu'el Avital to rejoin the party.

The letters, signed by party secretary-general Nisim Zvili, informed the recipients that they are now considered members in the Labor Party again, unless they inform the party otherwise within the next 30 days.

Ramon last night repeated his position that "Labor's rescinding its letters of expulsion is merely a first step. Our return to Labor is by no means automatic, and it now hinges on the outcome of a very complex set of negotiations."

Zvili insisted that he "has no idea any negotiations are involved or necessary here. I don't know of any talks."

Ramon fears that the Labor Party machine will now vindictively unite against him and his allies in the next Knesset primaries. Thus, he insists on either reserving safe Knesset slots for his group or on holding open primaries, in which non-party members will be entitled to participate.

Both options are regarded as unacceptable to the party.

Ramon said this week that, "at this point," he will not make moves to field his own ticket in the next Knesset elections, lest it bring the Likud to power, but he repeated his determination to "make sure that my colleagues are not slaughtered politically."

Labor insiders feel that Ramon will wait as long as he can before reaching a decision, to see whether Labor's electoral prospects improve.

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King Husayn Continues Visit to New York

Reviews Country's Peace Stance

JN0604214595 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Apr 95

[Speech by King Husayn at a ceremony to receive the Hans J. Morgenthau Award in New York on 5 April—recorded, in English]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. President, distinguished guests. It gives me great pleasure to be here tonight, in New York among so many valued friends and members of the National Committee on U.S. Foreign Policy. It is a pleasure for me to receive the Hans J. Morgenthau Award which I accept in the name of all those Jordanians who have struggled and sacrificed for the cause of peace. It has been an honor to contribute to that cause. [applause]

While he was a soldier, who led his people when there was no alternative to armed struggle, and fought bravely for freedom and liberty in the Great Arab Revolt of 1916, King 'Abdallah, the founder of Jordan, was the first Arab leader to advocate a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. In 1947, he urged the Arab nation to accept the United nations Partition Plan. His position emanated from a personal and idealistic commitment to peace, coupled with a clear and realistic assessment of the situation. He was also acutely aware of the great dangers facing our region, and of the necessity for all parties to work together to secure a better future for all of our peoples. He was a man of courage and vision as history has demonstrated. Had his advice been heeded, the Middle East might have been spared decades of strife and terrible suffering. For that, King 'Abdallah was assassinated at the entrance of al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, one of the many martyrs who gave their lives for the cause of peace. This blow did not weaken my hopes for peace. It only strengthened my own determination to achieve it. I have dedicated my life and reign to earning the trust and faith that my people have always placed in me by providing them with increasingly wider opportunities to fulfill their potential, and by securing a brighter and most stable future for the coming generations of Jordanians. I've also pursued the quest for a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict as a fundamental prerequisite for stability and progress for all in the region. After the 1967 war, international efforts to reach such a settlement intensified and were highlighted by the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 which I helped to formulate. I remained actively involved with every subsequent peace initiative, and Jordan has supported every international effort towards that end. Since 1967, Jordan has consistently advocated the principle of a peaceful negotiated settlement of the conflict, while emphasizing its three essential elements: Peace must be just, balanced, and comprehensive. To be just and balanced, negotiated peace must be based on the tenets of international law and on international consensus as embodied in United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and later 338.

We have always advocated efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace for all parties directly concerned, for Israel, as well for the Palestinian people whose plight remains at the heart of the conflict, and beyond Egypt and Jordan, for Syria and Lebanon.

Convinced of the absolute need for a comprehensive peace, we have consistently supported the Palestinians in their quests for their legitimate national rights. In 1974, the Arab summit held at Rabat, Morocco, in response to Palestinian demands, absolved us in Jordan of all but our moral responsibilities towards our Palestinian brethren on Palestinian soil. The same summit decreed the Palestinian Liberation Organization the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In 1991, we provided an umbrella for the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace conference, enabling them to assume their responsibilities, directly, and to participate in the bilateral and multilateral negotiations with Israel.

The Palestinian negotiations, the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations at Oslo were followed by the White House lawn meeting, and we supported the ratification of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles of September 13th 1993. On the 14th of September 1993, we ratified the Jordanian-Israeli agenda which defined the framework for our subsequent negotiations. This was immediately followed by the resumption of serious and direct negotiations at the highest levels of government. On the 25th of July 1994, President Clinton hosted both myself and Prime Minister Rabin at the White House where we signed the Washington Declaration ending the state of war.

Prime Minister Rabin and I took upon ourselves the task of shepherding the peace negotiations between our two countries, and on October 26 1994, the governments of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Israel signed the peace treaty between them. [applause] The treaty restored to us all of our occupied lands, and established, for the first time in history, the international borders between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Israel. The security of this new border of peace is assured by Jordanian and Israeli armed and security forces without any foreign or international overseers or peace-keepers. The treaty also recognized and restored to us our water rights within the Jordanian-Israeli dimensions.

We are proud of these achievements, and hope that this honorable treaty of peace and the determined direct efforts which formulated it will serve as an inspiration to others in the region and beyond. We are determined that this peace will form a solid building block within the structure of the comprehensive peace we seek. [applause]

I would stress at this point that Jordan is totally committed to its peace treaty with Israel in spirit and word. [applause]

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Ladies and gentlemen: Peace means more to us than the fulfillment of contractual terms. If the task we completed in October 1994 was the establishment of peace, the challenge before us now is the building of peace. Simply put, the task before us now is the transforming of yesterday's enemies into the good neighbors of tomorrow. This is not a transformation that can be produced on command. It can only come about if it is constantly and carefully nurtured. Arraigned against those who stand in the peace camp on both sides of the previous divide are forces with an assortment of ideologies and outlooks that are united in their unholy objective of undermining and destroying the peace that we are determinedly building. Foremost amongst our assets in facing the forces of darkness are our democratic institutions where open dialogue and the will of the enlightened majority are protected and shall prevail.

It a recognized fact the world over that extremism, in all its forms, thrives on deprivation and despair. We must, therefore, double our efforts to combat poverty, unemployment, and social exclusion in our region, for the ultimate triumph of peace will be the triumph of hope over despair. The process of building peace brings challenges of its own. Years of turbulence and instability in the Middle East have left in their wake shattered economies, wasted precious resources, both human and material, which have severely hampered our efforts to promote sustainable socio-economic development. We suffer in our region from those disparities in wealth and income, debt burdens, and overextended public sectors, poverty and unemployment.

Our region has yet to benefit from viable free market economies synonymous with peace and stability. The modern history of Jordan is a tale of courage, determination, and perseverance in the face of constant, and seemingly unsurmountable challenges. But the least of our burdens have been the constraints imposed by our relatively scarce natural resources. Yet adversity has hewn the character of Jordanians and their desire for a better life free from injustice, fear, and want. In a diverse society such as ours, political pluralism, popular participation, and accountability have and will provide the best protection for the rights and dignity of our citizens. Thus, we have consistently struggled to consolidate our democratic institutions. Our parliamentary general elections in 1989 and 1993 were considered by all observers to have been fair and honest. We rescinded martial law, legalized political parties, and guaranteed the full exercise of freedom of expression to all Jordanians. We are understandably proud of these achievements. We've also worked diligently to build a better life for our future generations, where each and every person may have an equal opportunity to fulfill their potential regardless of ethnicity, religion, or gender.

Jordan's accomplishments in the social and economic fields have received international recognition as development models for the region. While we have made great strides, we still face great challenges. We also take pride in the fact that the legal, administrative, and fiscal reforms already implemented by Jordan have earned it recognition by several international NGO's [Nongovernmental Organizations] as one of the most advanced countries in implementing market-oriented reforms.

We are fully aware that the private sector must be allowed to operate freely if domestic and foreign investments are to breathe new life into our economy. Later this year, a major international conference will be hosted in Amman aimed at encouraging real partnerships between governments and private sectors. The conference which follows the Casablanca summit will examine more specifically many of the studies on regional projects and opportunities which peace now offers.

We believe that the economies of the Middle East are capable of rapid sustainable growth. We also believe it is imperative that this growth be widely and equitably shared. To achieve this goal, we depend upon the support and participation of all our friends.

In our view, the dividends of peace must not be limited to the countries directly involved in the peace process. They must benefit all of the countries in the region. For this reason, we believe that all of our neighbors should take an active part of supporting the process of peace building.

We are confident that our friends all over the world, particularly in the United States of America, will join us in sharing the benefits of a stable region of peace.

Mr. President, Distinguished Guests, for much of the 20th Century, our region has been the arena of a conflict that has caused untold suffering and terrible tragedy to all. As the century draws to a close, God willing, so will the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is our hope and belief that the next hundred years of the Middle East's rich history will earn the title of the century of peace—a peace blessed by God, a peace between the children of Abraham and their descendants, the dawning of peace between peoples for all times. Thank you and may God bless you all. [applause]

Views Debt Write-off, Israeli Ties

TA0704070895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan's King Husayn says he will visit Israel soon and welcomed yesterday's exchange of ambassadors between the two countries. He was speaking in New York after addressing the conference of presidents of major American Jewish organizations. He told Arye Golan he hoped to be in Amman to receive the credentials of Israel's first ambassador to Jordan, Shim'on Shamir.

[Begin Husayn recording] Well, we are very very happy indeed that this is happening, and I hope I am back in time to receive the credentials myself of the first Israeli ambassador to Jordan. [end recording]

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He also said Israel and Jordan are making progress in joint development projects, including exploiting mineral resources and building an international airport.

Husayn was hopeful the United States would relieve its country of its debt to Washington. A bill now before the Senate and expected to be passed approves the full $275 million in debt relief, promised by the administration. Husayn said the matter should be cleared soon.

[Begin Husayn recording] First of all, I do not believe it will take months. I know that the commitment is there by all concerned, both in the administration and in Congress and the Senate to get the thing over and done with as rapidly as possible. [end recording]

Departs for Canada

JN0704055095 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0430 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur have left the United States for Canada on a three-day official visit. His majesty will hold talks with senior Canadian officials on bilateral relations and a number of issues of mutual concern.

New Israeli Ambassador Arrives, Makes Statement

JN0604135195 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Apr 95

[Report by Randah Habib in Amman]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian and Israeli ambassadors have travelled to their posts in each other's capital. Shim'on Shamir arrived in Amman via the King Husayn Bridge on the Jordan River. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir left for Tel Aviv via the al-Shaykh Husayn Bridge in northern Jordan.

On his arrival, Shamir, 61, said he hopes his stay in Jordan will strengthen cooperation between the two countries which signed a peace treaty in October last year. Shamir said he is proud at being the first Israeli ambassador to Jordan. Shamir was ambassador to Egypt 1988-1990.

Both ambassadors are scheduled to present their credentials four days from now.

Jordan and Israel established diplomatic relations in November last year. The new Israeli ambassador will reside in a house near the U.S. embassy in the posh 'Abdun quarter in Amman.

Lauds 'Many Achievements'

JN0604211995 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 6 Apr 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel's Ambassador to Jordan Shim'on Shamir crossed the King Husayn Bridge today to assume his post in Amman. The 62-year old former history professor said his government was aware that peace between people will take time, but he stressed that it can be achieved through hard work, and above all, open dialogue between all members of the society.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] It is a very exciting feeling. It's a great challenge. I know it is a great responsibility. I feel privileged being the first ambassador. I understand this is a beginning of a long road which will lead to a better future to both our people.

[Unidentified correspondent] Are you satisfied with the way the treaty has been unfolding between Jordan and Israel?

[Shamir] I think we have realized the many achievements, and if you consider the fact that this peace has not yet existed for even six months, and you count the number of agreements we had and those which have already been implemented, I think its very impressive.

[Correspondent] How do you think we can prove that a peace between two governments could also mean a peace between two peoples?

[Shamir] Peace between governments is always the first step, then we should continue and have a peace between peoples, and this can be achieved through hard work and above all, through open dialogue between all members of society. [end recording]

Opposition Paper Criticizes U.S. Policy on Iraq

U.S. Decried as 'Outcast Policeman'

JN0504133495 Amman AL-BA'TH in Arabic 5 Apr 95 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "When America Turns Into an Outcast Policeman"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Observers expect a heated UN Security Council debate on the issue of the embargo imposed on Iraq due to the absolute U.S. rejection of lifting the embargo and the French, Russian, and Chinese insistence on lifting it in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. This paragraph obligates the Security Council to lift the embargo now that Iraq has fulfilled all its commitments toward it in accordance with the so-called resolutions of international legitimacy. [passage omitted]

We would like to reiterate that maintaining the embargo is in the interest of America, which will continue to blackmail the Gulf oil states and plunder their revenues as a price for the unused or useless junk and equipment it is stockpiling in their warehouses, and in return for protecting them against the so-called threats and invasion whenever "infiltrators" or "smugglers" cross the border.

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Signs of restlessness and grumbling began to emerge in the capitals of these states, including Riyadh, which has recently stopped purchasing more weapons pending the absorption of the ones it has already purchased or those on which it has struck deals worth tens of billions [currency not further specified]. The Qatari, UAE, and Omani statements on the need to lift the embargo began to wake them up to the fact that the "punishment" inflicted by the Iraqi embargo is now affecting the Gulf states themselves after the exhaustion of the oil revenues and that this serious situation should be stopped. Moreover, this situation will have its repercussions on the future relations among brothers and future generations, and will lead to remorse for the crimes perpetrated against brothers for the sake of fulfilling America's ambitions and its interest at the expense of the people of the region and their wealth and normal brotherly relations. [passage omitted]

Finally, we would like to say that Washington's use of the veto, if this happens, will make the embargo a purely American decision and the international legitimacy lie will then collapse so that the world will begin to break the embargo and expose America to the international community as an outcast policeman carrying a stick with which it tries to direct the herds of the world to its pen.

'Egomaniacal' Policy Rebuked

JN0504125495 Amman AL-BA'TH in Arabic 5 Apr 95 p 6

[Article by 'Abd-al-Rahman Abu-Sabayh: "U.S. Hegemony, for How Long?!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Since the aggression on Iraq, the reckless and stupid practices and behavior of the U.S. have continued to implement a policy designed to starve the Iraqi people and maintain their suffering in hopes of overthrowing the political regime in Iraq, while ignoring international laws and charters and the human rights of an entire people.

The Iraqi people have been subjected to a total land, sea, and air blockade for years, while being deprived of food, medicine, and all the requirements of normal life. The Western allies, led by the United States, are pursuing military belligerence in northern and southern Iraq and using their permanent military bases in the Arabian Gulf region.

It seems the United States has become egomaniacal, especially after the collapse of the political regime of the former Soviet Union and the latter's removal from the equation of the balance of power. Hence, the United States is now acting as the sole international pole, so others should yield to this pole, revolve in its orbit, and appease it through loyalty and obedience.

The United States has appointed itself the trustee of many states, as well as a policeman on land, at sea, and in the air for all peoples and governments. Furthermore, the United States acts as if it is the monarch of several parts of the world, while it is the sole decisionmaker at the UN Security Council! Large industrial states have political relations and economic interests with other states that are being harmed as a result of U.S. policy. Regrettably, however, these big states do not dare speak the truth or confront the policies of the U.S. Administration. They are content only with revolving in the orbit of the sole pole, in submission and capitulation to the fait accompli.

This phenomenon of U.S. despotism is not new. The world sensed it and saw it in Southeast Asia in the sixties, and elsewhere. However, this phenomenon clearly emerged after the end of the so- called Cold War and the collapse of the Eastern Bloc.

The first and most prominent sign of U.S. despotism was the U.S. military invasion of the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf, as well as the continued sinful, savage, and barbaric aggression on Iraq, in addition to the U.S. blockade imposed on Iraq and Libya, the military invasion of Somalia, and U.S. hegemony over the Security Council.

The growth of this U.S. domination over the world, through the United Nations and the UN Security Council, implicitly carries with it its own death. This growth must be resolved by a confrontation with the peoples of the world.

Every Iraqi citizen is carrying a rifle in one hand and a sickle in the other. The Iraqi people managed to crack the coalition led by the U.S. despot. Based on this, we say history confirms to us that there are moments of inspiration in the lives of peoples and individuals in which the peoples become aware of their real role and human responsibilities and learn in years what they did not learn in centuries.

In such moments, peoples regain their deep-rooted symbols and values, become free, and carry out actions and reactions. We can then say that the peoples act out of national pride. Iraq is now acting out of national pride.

Opposition Parties Denounce 'Arbitrary Arrests'

JN0504130795 Amman AL-BA'TH in Arabic 5 Apr 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Left-wing, democratic, Islamic, and pan-Arab forces aligned within the political parties opposing the defeatist course have discussed the endless encroachments by the government and its security agencies on democracy and public liberties in terms of the arbitrary arrests of scores of citizens from various regions, particularly from al-Karak, al-Tafilah, al-'Aqabah, Suwaylih, al-Zarqa', Irbid, and Amman, under the excuse of the Wadi al-Mawjib incident whose victim was a Western [French] diplomat.

Arrests have also been made in other locations, particularly among those students of Jordan University who won the Student Council elections.

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We believe these arrests, and continued attempts to restrict political action, conflict with the Constitution and the laws on freedom of political action. They are in keeping with the martial law policies that all honest men in this homeland worked to abolish. These measures are in also in line with the U.S. imperialist and Zionist forces' demands to strike at the forces that oppose the defeatist course.

We believe the continuation of these measures will create more economic hardship and complications in society, and will enhance the feelings of deprivation a large part of the population feel today as a result of their deteriorating living standards. This will not be in the interest of either the people or the homeland. The only ones who will benefit from this policy will be the handful of people who are getting fat on the morsels of the settlement.

We denounce the government measures, the security organizations harassment, and their return to martial law policies, even though these were abrogated during the previous House of Representatives session. We would like to mention here the equitable sentence passed by the Court of Cassation reversing the State Security Court's sentence concerning the defendants in the Mu'tah case. Such a sentence by a respected court like the Court of Cassation substantiates the soundness of our stand condemning the arrests of the Mu'tah University students and the pressure, torture, and coercion exercised at the time against those arrested in connection with the case.

We call for punishing those who fabricated the case of the Mu'tah students, proclaim our solidarity with the families of those arrested in connection with this case and with their demand to punish those who caused harm to those were acquitted in this case.

The opposition political parties which have signed this statement appeal to all honest forces, trade unions, human rights organizations, Amnesty International, and freedom-fighters in the Arab region and the world to support the cause of the Jordanian detainees, condemn the government's policies of restricting public liberties, and attempts to revive the martial laws. We call for the immediate release of all political detainees, and the suspension of the policy of illegal summoning of people whose purpose is to terrorize and blackmail citizens.

Israeli Sources Cited on U.S. Arms Sales to Country

JN0604121195 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 6 Apr 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli political circles have said that the United States wants to supply Jordan from the U.S. military stockpile, particularly in Germany, with tanks, anti-aircraft guns, jeeps, transportation aircraft, and other military equipment. This will enable Jordan to acquire U.S. military equipment at reduced prices and without delay.

These political sources added that Jordan wants to acquire F-16 or F-15 sophisticated warplanes. The U.S. Administration, however, has thus far not agreed on supplying Jordan with such sophisticated assault aircraft.

Government Urged To Check 'Normalization' Drive

JN0604123495 Amman AL-NIDA' in Arabic 5 Apr 95 p 1

[From the "Our Call" column by Chief Editor Bahjat al-Majali: "When Normalization Becomes a Blade"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It could be that were obliged to sign the peace treaty. However, we do not have to be engaged in a frenzied drive toward normalization with Israel, heedless of the amount of gains or losses that may result from such a step. We should use the time between signing the treaty and normalization to build an atmosphere conducive to benefiting from the minor issues, now that major ones have been concluded and it is all over.

Following the signing of the treaty, we had a chance to think of our possible gains in the forthcoming stage that would compensate for some of our losses. However, it seems we have grown accustomed to wasting chances, squandering our strengths, and accepting what is given to us without trying to make use of the opposition's stands and viewpoints in consolidating our negotiating status and imposing our conditions.

We raise this issue, and caution against it, anew because we are witnessing an official rush to normalization of relations with Israel and a failure to consider propositions that should be heeded at this stage. For example, signing a tourism agreement organizing crossing, a minor issue, could have been used as an element of pressure to stir the question of displaced persons. A national plan should have been drawn up to upgrade our tourism sector and facilities in order to live up to the stage of "full openness" and removal of barriers, and to compete with the Israeli tourism sector, because comprehensive and integrated facilities invite lucrative tourism, which contributes to the national income.

What applies to the tourism and crossings agreement also goes, in one way or another, for coastal resources investment projects.

It is expected that other projects will surface because the time is pregnant with surprises. We are very apprehensive that Jordanians' interests and wealth will be squandered when we give the Israelis what they failed to get through wars. This is evident in the Israelis' attempts to assert their influence on the al-'Aqabah Port.

In such an atmosphere, it seems that regret, against which we will continue to caution, has started to emerge and even grow. We hope that our warning will help prevent cutting the body of Jordan with a new blade.

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Once again, we call on the government to put the brakes on the acceleration of normalization.

Prince Hasan on Need To Resolve Refugee Issue

MM0604150495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Apr 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Shahadah Abu-Baqar: "Prince Hasan Bin-Talal Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Building Trust Among Ourselves As Arabs Requires Opening the File in Any Way"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman—Crown Prince Hasan of Jordan has announced that the objective of resolving the refugee issue was not altered when Jordan signed the treaty with Israel. He stressed that there should be understanding in inter-Arab relations. He said: "To build trust among ourselves as Arabs we should open the files in any way."

Prince Hasan was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT after receiving a humanitarian prize from the international organization "Care" in Amman the evening before last. It is a nongovernmental organization concerned with humanitarian affairs.

Prince Hasan said that UN reports prove that there are humanitarian criteria for joining any regional club. They include care for people, their right to move freely, their economic dignity, and recognition of their social, cultural, and religious rights.

He added that this mentality is the basis of what was known as the Helsinki march, which contributed to destroying the Berlin Wall, because it gave precedence to the humanitarian dimension before talking about the economic or material dimension.

He went on to say: What I would like to say as regards the refugee issue is that in the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, for example, we specified that the constants have not changed. This includes making reference to the refugees in the framework of the bilateral and multilateral talks. And, of course, making reference to the establishment of the humanitarian system about which I spoke before, and its association with security and cooperation.

In this context Prince Hasan wondered: What security and what cooperation, if we ignore man? He pointed out that these issues were mentioned in so many words in the Jordanian-Israeli treaty. [passage omitted]

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Rabin's Talk on Security Arrangements Discussed

JN0504165995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Apr 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: At a time when Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process, intends to visit the region, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin announced—while speaking about the Washington talks at a meeting with the Knesset Foreign Affairs Committee—that a magical solution has not yet been reached and that the problem continues to be the equality [musawah] in mutual [mutabadal] arrangements on the two sides of the future borderlines.

Rabin's talk means that the Washington negotiations on the Syrian track between the Syrian and Israeli ambassadors continue to be about ambiguous results and continue to deal with ideas and intentions, and that Israel has not yet decided to render these talks successful. His talk also means that Israel continues to believe that it can implement its ideas and illusions by imposing its positions that are far from the principles of just ['adil] and comprehensive peace, or at least by combining conflicting issues in one basket. This is represented in reaching a settlement while maintaining its occupation under the pretext of safeguarding Israel's security.

Syria, which emphasized that peace is its strategic option, has agreed to resume the Washington talks out of its eagerness to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land- for-peace principle. Through its acceptance to resume the talks, under U.S. auspices and participation, Syria gave the peace process a new chance to move forward. However, and as all signs show, the ball continues to be in the Israeli court. The formula of equal [mutawiyah] and parallel [mutawazinah] security arrangements on both the Syrian and Israeli sides is not a Syrian issue but is an Israeli problem. If, this time, Israel is serious to contribute to progress in the peace process, it is clear that its commitment to equitable [mutakafi'ah] and equal [mutasawiyah] security arrangements will lead toward the required progress and toward a just ['adil] and comprehensive solution that terminates the occupation and puts an end to injustice, aggression, and expansion.

Certainly, Syria has nothing to hide. Its position is clear and is not liable to interpretation. Since the beginning of the peace process three and a half years ago, the experiments and developments proved Syria's credibility concerning the principles of a just ['adil] solution and its adherence to the Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. Events also proved that the Israeli illusions concerning the marketing of ideas and pretexts to hold on to the land and conclude separate deals and partial agreements have not and will not make true and successful peace. These ideas, deals, and agreements have further complicated the situation and added a new burden to the peace process. They have almost led the entire peace process into a dark tunnel.

The point reached by the peace process as a result of the Israeli positions, maneuvers, and practices does not need further complications and obstacles. Otherwise, the optimistic atmosphere will be shaken and replaced by a pessimistic atmosphere, and this will threaten the peace process. Israel alone shoulders the responsibility for this situation, and will bear the consequences and dangers that will follow.

The road to just ['adil] and comprehensive peace is clear and only requires an Israeli response to the requisites of this peace. All the Israeli attempts aimed to evade the requisites and pillars of just and comprehensive peace will be to no avail. Foremost of these pillars and requisites are full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon, ensuring the pan-Arab rights, refraining from encroaching on the Arab dignity, and the real and serious implementation of the Security Council resolutions through the return of the Israeli occupation forces to the 4 June 1967 borders.

Israeli 'Escalation' in Southern Lebanon Viewed

JN0504095195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 5 Apr 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a comment, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH discusses the aggressive campaign Israel is launching against Lebanon. It says: Through this campaign, Israel seeks to lay mines to foil and obstruct the recent resumption of the peace talks. Meanwhile, Israel shows a false concern about the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH says Lebanon, which managed through its coordination with Syria to cancel the events of 17 May 1983 at a time when Lebanon was weak, can now overcome Israeli pressure and continue its national and pan-Arab march.

The paper adds: The truth is that Israel, which wants to take revenge on Lebanon through aggression in order to strike at its national unity and divert it from its firm position on the issue of peace, can no longer achieve any of these objectives, now that its subversive role in Lebanon has been revealed to all.

AL-THAWRAH adds: There is also the fact that the regional circumstances view the aggressive Israeli escalation as something that goes beyond southern Lebanon because it is targeting the security and stability of all Arabs. This requires all Arabs to take a serious pan-Arab position to thwart the Israeli threat posed both to Lebanon and to them.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Syria, which has always stood alongside Lebanon, will continue to take a pan-Arab position that provides the Lebanese people

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with all they want. Syria will spare no effort or capability to support Lebanon and achieve its objectives and hopes.

Self-Rule 'Allegations' on Gaza Explosion Assailed

JN0404202395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Apr 95

["Palestine" broadcast; broadcast in progress: "Talk of the Return"]

[FBIS Translated Text] ...seek God's mercy for any of those who were martyred in the catastrophe [Gaza explosion], knowing that they were strugglers and militant leaders. The way the spokesman talked about these martyrs did not suit the glory of their martyrdom or even the death of those who are not viewed as martyrs. People should not say anything about the dead other than asking for God's mercy and forgiveness for them. Many allegations then followed. The spokesman said that they—the martyrs—were making bombs and storing explosives in the house and that if the self-rule police had not dismantled them, a huge disaster would have occurred, as claimed by this strange spokesman, who spoke about these martyrs as if they were from another planet, or another people.

Despite this, the response is very simple. The strugglers in the occupied homeland do not have luxurious, high-price weapons, whether purchased or given as gifts. Our strugglers in the occupied homeland make many molotov cocktails and explosives, in addition to what they receive from honest patriotic sources, the weapons they buy from some enemy soldiers who are drug addicts, and the weapons they capture from the enemy soldiers who are executed by our strugglers, and who are killed in fierce confrontations between the two sides. This is in addition to the weapons they capture from the enemy depots in the camps of the Israeli occupation army in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Israeli sources admitted that our youths in the occupied homeland can obtain weapons through these methods; namely, buying or capturing weapons from enemy soldiers and taking weapons from enemy depots. These sources admitted this when the Israelis arrested—the year before last—a Palestinian Arab youth from the city of Janin, who infiltrated, through a hole, a weapons depot in one of the camps of the Israeli occupation army in the West Bank. This youth infiltrated the enemy depot 17 times and captured tens of rifles, ammunition boxes, grenades, and explosives, as the Israeli sources themselves admitted.

Therefore, the spokesman of the self-rule police should not disapprove of the armament methods of the national resistance in the occupied homeland. This is the least that was spoken by the self- rule men. Some of these men even accused these heroic strugglers of the explosion by alleging that they carry out their splendid operations to prevent Israel from leaving the West Bank. These spokesmen should respect their people and the human mind. They should not allege that a youth will blow himself up among the enemy's soldiers in collusion with the Israeli enemy. These spokesmen have spoken such nonsense time and again, and they are now doing the same with the Gaza catastrophe.

We cannot, and have no right to prevent any party from making fabrications and telling lies. However, he who tells lies should do so cleverly to make it difficult for others to refute his lies and so that his lies will not turn into a joke.

The resistance in the occupied homeland pledged to revenge the righteous martyrs. The resistance will keep the pledge. God's mercy be on the heroic martyr Kamal Kuhayl and his comrades, the righteous martyrs. God will compensate the Palestinian Arab people and the Arab nation with legions of strong fighters.

Daily on Impact of Dollar's Drop on Pound

JN0704084195 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 11 Mar 95 p 8

[From the "Economic Analysis" column by Jihad al-Na'san: "We and the Dollar"]

[FBIS Translated Text] World currency markets witnessed high tension last week when the dollar exchange rate against the yen fell to its lowest level since World War II. It dropped to 89 yen to the dollar before rallying. It also dropped to record levels against the German mark.

This caused confusion in European financial markets, where most European currencies dropped against the mark. The foreign exchange system trembled once again.

In this disturbed situation and amid such sharp fluctuations in the currency rates, the question about their effect on us and our economy became justifiable and the need to find a clear answer became a pressing matter.

As usual, the Syrian Central Bank and the Syrian Commercial Bank adjusted the bulletin for foreign currency rates against the Syrian pound. It is a custom to make such an adjustment whenever there are changes in the exchange rates of the main foreign currencies in order to avoid the negative effect of these changes and to evaluate them according to world prices.

It will be observed that this adjustment covered the exchange rates of most currencies against the Syrian pound other than the U.S. dollar, whose exchange rate against the Syrian pound remained fixed irrespective of its rise or fall in the money markets.

The fluctuations of currency exchange rates and the percentage of the change against the Syrian pound have often been linked to the fluctuations of currency exchange rates against the dollar. In other words, the percentage of change against the Syrian pound has always been linked to the percentage of change against the dollar.

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This matter prompts us to ask if the Central Bank and the Commercial Bank are sticking to an old decision, which is still valid, by which the adjustment mechanism is determined according to certain specific rules and rates.

At any rate, this is not the main issue, since the movement of our imports and exports is financed mainly through the U.S. dollar. And, since we import more goods from Europe and the east, the effect on the prices will no doubt be obvious. The prices of goods which are calculated in the mark and the yen will go up. On the other hand, the prices of goods of U.S. origin will not drop so long as we have chosen the dollar as the means of payment and so long as the drop is in the dollar exchange rate.

Of course, we are not the only ones who are affected. The oil exporting countries are also affected. However, it is important to emphasize the need to examine the question, especially if the dollar continues to drop and reaches a point where it becomes inevitable to reconsider the current decision which regulates the process by which the exchange rate is fixed.

The question is not serious, but it requires study and reassessment, and this is what we hope and aspire for.

Report Tallies 1994 Economic Achievements

JN0704093695 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 8 Mar 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] A report has been issued on the most important economic and social achievements of the Syrian Arab Republic in 1994. The report, which marks the 32d anniversary of the glorious 8 March 1963 Revolution, is preceded by a dedication to President Hafiz al-Asad, pioneer of economic and social development, leader of our people, and the hope of the masses of the nation in the battle for construction and liberation. The dedication says the report is a bright record of what the popular will has achieved, what the historical leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad has planned, and what the active minds and arms of the sons of the Syrian Arab people have accomplished throughout the decades.

The report explains in figures what was achieved on the economic level in 1994, when the Gross National Production amounted to 785 billion Syrian pounds. This reflects the increase in investment, which has been encouraged following the issuance of Law No. 10. The achievements covered most agricultural and industrial projects as well as projects in transportation, oil, mineral resources, electricity, and health. The report also refers to the graduation of a number of national technical cadres to support the work mechanism in the industrial and agricultural sectors.

Investment Outside Damascus, Aleppo Encouraged

JN0704102095 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 12 Feb 95 p 8

[Article by 'Abd-al-Fattah al-'Awad]

[FBIS Translated Text] Industrial sources say the number of workers in the industrial sector exceeds one million, while industrial establishments have 37,000 firms and 80,000 crafts. These sources estimate there are 100,000 unlicensed small productive units.

Investment Law No. 10 has greatly contributed to the increase in the number of industrial projects. But the problem, which is bound to exacerbate, is that 82 percent of all investment in industrial projects is concentrated in Damascus and Aleppo. These two cities now monopolize 75 percent of industrial projects. Why? What is the solution?

For Damascus and Aleppo to monopolize all these industrial projects means not only enormous pressure for both cities, whether in terms of housing, environment, or services rendered to citizens, but also an unfair distribution of development, depriving many other regions of the positive effects of such projects, at least in terms of providing job opportunities.

It is understood that the raw materials needed for food, chemical, and other industries are not in Damascus or Aleppo, but in areas at near and distant from these two cities. Therefore, the trend toward investment in Damascus and Aleppo can only be due to the availability of infrastructure facilities, such as roads, communications, nearness to markets, and the chances of contact. From the economic viewpoint, establishing industrial projects close to raw materials is considered a great advantage. But what we have now is a situation where industries are conceding this advantage for the sake of benefiting from the services which are provided by the cities.

In its facilities and exemptions, Investment Law No. 10 equates an industrial project in Damascus with one in Dayr al-Zawr. But what we need is to direct investment to remote regions whose development requires industrial projects, especially since the number of projects in some regions can be counted on one hand. Directing investment to regions outside the cities, especially Damascus and Aleppo, means offering more facilities and exemptions than are given to industrial projects in general.

Nations that encourage investment have laws that help direct investment to certain regions and specific industrial fields. Every country has its particular industrial needs. Some projects, such as transport projects, recoup their capital very quickly, while others require several years to recoup their capital. Therefore, equating projects which can recoup their capital in a short period of time with others which need a longer time is unfair and creates confusion in the various industrial sectors.

Therefore, any proposals to steer investment to a certain direction will require special studying and benefiting from the experiences of other nations in this field.

One obvious method of helping to steer investment to remote regions is giving more exemptions than those which are offered to investment in the big cities and

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actually reducing the facilities and exemptions granted to projects in the cities; say, by banning the establishment of projects within a radius of 30-40 kilometers from the cities and thus helping to create green belts around our cities. We should also divide regions into rings and make facilities and exemptions dependent on where the projects are located on these rings and how far they are from the main cities. We should also direct the investor to the remotest regions by offering him even bigger exemptions and advantages.

We should also offer bigger exemptions to certain industries and withhold them from others, which are no longer needed by the country or which experience has shown do not deserve all the exemptions given them.

In the field of bank transfers, we need to revise our banking system. No doubt, we are all aware of the banking sector's failure to contribute to bringing investment to our country. Loans and credit facilities ought to be linked to the type and location of projects. Yet, our banking sector has distanced itself from financing big industrial projects. Take the Industrial bank, for instance. Due to its modest capabilities, it has confined itself to offering small loans.

Second Cotton Spinning Company Opened in Idlib

JN0704093095 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 8 Mar 95 P 6

[Numbers as published]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Idlib—The Idlib Spinning Company is the first industrial firm of its kind in the governorate and the first in the textile industry sector to acquire open-ended turbo-spinning. The establishment of the company is one of several achievements for the governorate under the leadership of comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad. The aim of this company is to manufacture cotton locally, instead of exporting it as raw cotton to foreign countries at cheap prices, and to provide job opportunities for about 1,000 workers from the poor toiling class. [passage omitted]

Last year, it was planned to produce 9,008 tonnes of cotton thread of different types to meet the needs of the local market, both public and private sector companies, and to export part of the production, according to world market demands. The company achieved an execution percentage of 85 percent by producing 7,650 tonnes, an increase of 1,114 tonnes over the 1993 production. It sold 7,685 tonnes, 25 tonnes more than what was produced. The 25 tonnes came from the 1993 leftover stock of 48 tonnes. Thus, only a stock of 13 tonnes remains. Some 462 tonnes of the above quantity were sold in U.S. dollars. The rest was sold to the local market as follows: 2,416 tonnes to the public sector and 4,807 tonnes to the private sector. [passage omitted]

Following the success of the first company it was decided to begin establishing a second cotton spinning project adjacent to the first one. Implementation of the project began on 11 March 1993 at a total cost of 205 million German marks [currency as published] which will be provided by the Kuwaiti Development Fund. This will be one of the biggest spinning plants in Syria and the Middle East. Cotton yarn will be produced by means of machines with ring-shaped spindles at the rate of 120,000 tonnes of cotton yarn annually to cover the needs of the local market and to export the surplus. Most of this company's production will be for export. The company will employ 2,500 workers, including technicians and administrative, productive, and service employees. The company will occupy an area of 23 hectares. The building area will be 90,000 square meters. The Spanish Alpha Matix Company [name as transliterated] will implement this project, which will become ready by the end of July 1996, when mechanical operational tests will begin to be followed by actual production of cotton yarn.

Minister Addresses New Officers on Peace Stand

JN0604191395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under the patronage of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, a new class of officers, representing the various branches, was graduated today following the completion of a training course during which the officers became familiar with scientific, military, and political topics.

Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, deputized for His Excellency President al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Talas delivered a speech on the occasion at the beginning of which he conveyed greetings from struggler President Hafiz al-Asad and his wishes of success to the graduates. [passage omitted]

Addressing the graduates, Lt. Gen. Talas said: Your graduation today takes place at the most critical stage of our pan-Arab struggle. It is the stage of a decisive and firm stand to foil Israel's attempts to impose its hegemony on the Arab arena and to force it to recognize the Arabs legitimate rights and implement the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Lt. Gen. Talas said that al-Asad's Syria is very well aware of the prevarications and methods of deception to which Israel resorts to evade the peace requirements, not to mention its repressive measures against our kinfolk in the occupied territories and southern Lebanon. Syria, which rejects bargaining on its rights and the dignity of its nation will not abandon an inch of land or any of its nation's right and will only accept just and comprehensive peace.

Lt. Gen. Talas said that in the past Syria had called for Arab solidarity, and now it calls for enhancing this solidarity that will prevent Israel from achieving its hostile designs since Syria believes that the Arab strength lies in unity and solidarity. [passage omitted]

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Afghanistan

Consulate Denies Shindand Airport Captured by Taleban

LD0504135695 Tehran IRNA in English 1241 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov. April 5, IRNA—Consulate of Afghanistan in this northeastern provincial capital city denied reports that the Shindand airport in Afghanistan has been captured by the Taleban forces. A statement released by the consulate on Tuesday [4 April] quoted officials of Afghan province of Herat as saying that government forces are in full control of the situation.

A Talebans spokesman earlier claimed that the group had seized the strategic airport of Shindand. Shindand airport, the second strategic airport of Afghanistan, is referred to as the "gate of Herat" in the recent fightings.

Taleban Claims Capture of Airport

LD0604193395 Tehran IRNA in English 1910 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov. April 6, IRNA—Clashes between the Talebans group and Afghan Government forces reportedly continue in Anar Darreh and Farah Rud a few kilometers south of Shindand in western Afghanistan, informed sources said here today.

Government forces have repelled the Talebans attack on Shindand and have pushed them back, the sources added.

A Talebans spokesman in Pakistan had claimed Wednesday that they had seized Shindand, Afghanistan's second important military airport.

The informed sources here also said Talebans' attempt to seize Qal'eh Kah which was reportedly evacuated by government forces have been unsuccessful and government forces are in control of the area.

Qal'eh Kah is an area in the west of Farah Prvoince near Iran's border.

Pseudo Taleban Rebels Unsuccessful in Farah

LD0504180595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The offensive of the pseudo Taleban rebels has been repulsed in the province of Farah. Reports received by BAKHTAR say: The pseudo Taleban rebels mounted an unsuccessful offensive yesterday afternoon in Farah Province. The raiders' offensive was repulsed as a result of resistance by Islamic army forces, and the pseudo Taleban suffered heavy loss of life and material. During the counteroffensive of mojahedin and the Islamic army forces in the southwestern zone, (?60) pseudo Taleban were killed and 10 were taken prisoner. Similarly, two pieces [word indistinct] and one ZK1 [machine gun] were captured by Islamic army forces.

Bangladesh

Hillary Clinton Cordially Welcomed in Editorial

BK0704105595 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 2 Apr 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Welcome Hillary Clinton"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. first lady, Hillary Clinton, will arrive today on a three-day visit to Bangladesh. This will be the first visit by any U.S. first lady to Bangladesh. It may be mentioned that during the time of the erstwhile East Pakistan two U.S. presidents came to visit this country. They were Republican President Eisenhower, who was a leading commander and victor of World War II, and Democrat President Johnson. Since the independence of Bangladesh no important personality like the above two individuals have come to visit this country. Viewed from this angle, the arrival of Hillary Clinton in Dhaka is especially significant. However, it is true that the U.S. first lady is coming to Dhaka as a part of her tour of the five South Asian countries. After concluding her visits to Pakistan, India, and Nepal she will be arriving today in Dhaka—which is popularly known as the city of mosques. From here she will go to Sri Lanka on the last leg of her tour of South Asia. We are delighted that she is coming to Bangladesh. We cordially welcome her to this country.

Many people know that the identity of Hillary Clinton is not confined only to her status as the wife of the U.S. President. She actively participates in a large sphere of activities in U.S. society. Before coming to the White House, as the first lady of Arkansas she played a prominent role in official and social activities of the state. She was the chairperson of the Childrens' Defend Fund. In 1974, she was appointed legal adviser of the judicial committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. It goes without saying that the activities of Mrs. Hillary Clinton are not limited to increasing the glamor of the White House. She represented the United States at the world summit held in Copenhagen last month. She is a close associate and adviser of the President in conducting the affairs of the government. She is the chief of the task force on health affairs. It may be mentioned that a first lady is usually not seen performing this type of role.

In reply to a question on who has influenced the diversity that is representative of her life, the U.S. first lady replied that apart from her parents she was probably most influenced by the clergy of the Methodist Church. This is proved by the fact that both the President and the first lady regularly attend the Sunday services. Despite the hot temperature during this summer month in Bangladesh, we wish the U.S. first lady a pleasant visit.

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India

Minister Reaffirms Opposition to Signing NPT

BK0704032995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, has reiterated that New Delhi will neither sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] nor participate in the coming conference on its extension. Mr. Mukherjee, now on a visit to Paris, was talking to newspersons yesterday. He said India wants proliferation to cease, but that must be achieved universally and without discrimination.

Editorial Concerning NPT, U.S. Pressure

BK0604121095 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 5 Apr 95 p 6

[Editorial: "The Nuclear Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The charge of the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] against the Narasimha Rao government that it stopped our nuclear program after wilting under American pressure is indeed a very serious charge, and calls for not only a formal denial but a detailed explanation as to what sort of pressure the United States is exerting on us regarding our nuclear and missile programs and what the government response has been. Since it is well known that the United States is imposing a variety of conditions on India regarding these two programs and continuously cajoling and coaxing India to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT], it cannot be said that the United States is not exerting pressure on India. The delay in handing over the indigenously developed missiles to our Army confirms the suspicion that the United States wants to halt not only our nuclear program but the missile development program as well. Besides dispelling this doubt, the government must take the people into its confidence regarding its response to this American pressure. Public opinion ought to be sought regarding any pressure on matters relating to our national security. Not only does this boost the morale of the government, but it gives an appropriate message to those powers which exert a variety of unwanted pressures on other countries so that they may maintain their supremacy in nuclear and missile technologies.

The United States is able to come up with new conditions and strategy for our nuclear and missile programs only because we are unable to impress upon this superpower our firm resolve to not change our policy. It is only because of our weak posture that the United States talks now about keeping South Asia a nuclear-free zone, granting some concessions to woo us into signing the NPT or seeking our opinion to devise an agreement for stopping production of the nuclear material. If the Government of India firmly and clearly asserts its maintenance of the nuclear program for peaceful purposes, it is not accepting the discriminatory NPT, not slackening its missile development program, and not agreeing to hold talks to review its policy regarding these issues, no country, including the United States, can dare talk about pressuring us to stop our nuclear or missile development programs. In matters relating to our national security, we must not only be firm but most certainly appear to be firm as well.

Commentary Assails Possible Change in Pressler Act

BK0704040095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 Apr 95

[Commentary by Kanchan Gupta]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is now increasingly becoming clear that the U.S. Administration—at the behest of the American President, Mr. Bill Clinton, and his close aides in the State Department—is pushing for a change in the Pressler Amendment to resume military and economic aid to Pakistan, as what was made evident by Mr. Clinton on the eve of the Pakistani prime minister, Mrs. Benazir Bhutto's, visit to the U.S. when he suggested that Washington should seriously review the policy of blocking military and economic aid to Islamabad unless it puts a halt to its nuclear program.

Indeed, for the past one year Mr. Clinton as well as certain key officials in his administration have been trying to force a change in U.S. policy in this regard. The issue came to a head over the supply of 28 F-16 aircraft for which Pakistan has already paid an enormous amount. The supply has been held up since October 1990 after the then U.S. Administration headed by Mr. George Bush failed to certify that Pakistan does not possess nuclear weapons. Mrs. Bhutto has been relentlessly campaigning for the ban on the supply of these deadly aircraft to be lifted, and she would have succeeded in this mission by now had it not been for the strong opposition in the American legislature.

To begin with, Pakistan's nuclear capability is no secret, apart from external reports that senior Pakistani politicians have acknowledged the existence of bombs in Islamabad's basement. As a result of the resumed supply of American weaponry to Pakistan, India cannot but take appropriate steps to meet the challenge. In other words we will witness an arms race initiated by Washington, which stands to gain materially from the deteriorating security scenario. This time no linkages have been suggested, and for all we know the Pressler Amendment will be thrown to the winds without extracting any concessions from Pakistan. Mrs. Bhutto could yet return to Islamabad with a shopping bag full of American military hardware and economic aid. This is indicated by the U.S. Administration's attempt to try and paint Mrs. Bhutto's government in the brightest of colors.

Given this backdrop, if the U.S. waived the restrictions imposed by the Pressler Amendment, it will only be fuelling the low-intensity war that Pakistan is waging

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against India and of which transborder terrorism in only one component. It bears reiteration that India cannot afford to be a passive witness to the unfolding drama, not least because it involves national security interests. Hopefully, better sense will prevail upon Washington and Mrs. Bhutto will ultimately fail in her mission.

Commentary on Bhutto's Flawed Security Agenda

BK0604133295 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English 6 Apr 95 p 13

[Commentary by Pravin Sawhney: "Pak army, not Benazir, decides security issues"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The regional security agenda that Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto carries to Washington for the summit meeting with President Clinton has serious flaws: It will not please the Americans and is at variance with the thinking of the Pakistan Army Chief, Gen. Abdul Waheed. How important is the Army Chief in Pakistan is best put in his own words in August 1994: "I had power at my feet, but I chose not to take it." Said in the context of political uncertainty in Pakistan, which led to the second term in office of Bhutto, what Gen. Waheed implied is that he is the kingmaker and the joker in the pack of Pakistan's democracy.

According to Pakistan's ambassador in America, Maleeha Lodhi, Bhutto will ask Clinton to mediate on Kashmir with a peace process similar to the one in West Asia between Israel and Arabs. The Americans will, once again, be told that nuclear nonproliferation and conventional arms control in the subcontinent are inextricably linked to the resolution of the Kashmir issue. Bhutto will also seek the repealing of the Pressler amendment so that F-16s are delivered or money is returned and will ask for American military assistance and cooperation to fight drug-lords and terrorism which is taking its toil in Karachi.

The American position (for the moment) on Kashmir is that it is a disputed territory. Any resolution of the issue must also involve the people of Kashmir. The American under secretary of state for political affairs, Peter Tarnoff, said in Delhi on April 4 that United States will not be a mediator in any negotiations between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. Washington, however, is keen to do something as it believes that the Kashmir problem can snowball into another conflict between the two nuclear capable neighbours. While America has ruled out a West Asia peace process for the subcontinent (as India is opposed to outside mediation), it should persuade Pakistan and India to lower military tensions in Kashmir. This requires that both countries agree to convert the Line of Control into a line of peace and tranquility, which will put an end to subversion, shelling, use of explosives, infiltration and terrorism in Kashmir. As America and Pakistan have joined hands in fighting international terrorism, Clinton must ask Bhutto to work out modalities with India, for ushering tranquility along the Line of Control, as a military confidence building measure for a peace process to commence in Kashmir, whatever its complexion.

The problem in that Gen. Washeed will not approve of creating a line of peace and tranquility in Kashmir. In a new military offensive, the Pakistan Army has resorted to an attack-by-infiltration strategy in Kashmir, by the induction of hardened and trained foreign mercenaries in the state. They are fighting the Indian Army at tactical levels and are trained in the use of rocket propelled grenades and improvised explosive devices, which are responsible for maximum number of casualties. The Pakistan Army appears to be satisfied with its Kashmir policy and is unlikely to change it. As it knows that results will take long to show, Islamabad has disclosed its nuclear weapons capability, which is expected to be a deterrence against Indian military retaliation.

As Kashmir and nuclear policies of Pakistan are controlled by the Army General headquarters in Rawalpindi, only Gen. Washeed's views on national security should be taken seriously. He warned America in August 1994 that, "F-16s or no F-16s, these will not be at the cost of national security (read, giving up the nuclear weapon capability)," As America has linked repeating of the Pressler amendment with a graduated compromise on Pakistan's nuclear capability, Gen. Waheed's statement puts the issue into perspective. Lodhi's assertion that Pressler amendment has led to Pakistan's increased dependence on nuclear weapons is misleading, as it wrongly links nuclear weapons with conventional arms accretions. The simple truth is that Pakistan will not roll back its nuclear weapons capability at any cost. Neither will it give up its ballistic missile capability, which it is relentlessly pursuing with Chinese assistance. Pakistan military will prefer a few batteries of ballistic missiles to even two squadrons of advanced strike aircraft capable of carrying nuclear loads.

As Pakistan military is clear about its nuclear and missiles objectives, the political establishment in Islamabad has a free hand to indulge in one-upmanship with India on these issues. Delhi makes a clear distinction between Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. While opposing the NPT as discriminatory, it is in the forefront for seeking universal condemnation of nuclear weapons at the conference on disarmament. With little original to add to the debate on the comprehensive test ban treaty or the recently begun move for a fissile-ban treaty, Pakistan's political leadership has a simple agenda - it is willing to do whatever India agrees to. Realising that India advocates universal stoppage of fissile material production, Islamabad now wants that existing stockpiles of fissile material be also brought under international safeguard. Let alone India, this suggestion, for obvious reasons, will not be acceptable to the nuclear powers including the United States.

If Washington is never much concerned about stands taken by the political establishment in Pakistan, it is

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because it knows they can be moulded. Pakistan also realises its growing importance for America, which explains why Washington did not react when Lodhi recently went as far as accusing America of backing terrorists. Pakistan's envoy said that growing terrorism in her country is the result of the Afghan war in which America and the West backed and armed the Mojahedin in its war against communism. Gen. Waheed would not have liked this statement.

The Pressler amendment has hit conventional arms capability of Pakistan only in a limited sense. Even if it is repealed, Pakistan cannot hope to get military assistance from America of the magnitude it got in the Fifties and Sixties or the largesse it received during the war in Afghanistan in Eighties. Another constraining factor is the post-Cold War American policy of maintaining good relations with India and Pakistan. Pressler amendment is now more of a political issue than a military irritant between Pakistan and the United States. It can be argued that the Pressler amendment has actually benefited the military in Pakistan, as it provides the perfect excuse for spending more on defence. Pakistan's defence budget has grown substantially since the amendment was imposed in 1990. Traditional relations between the two militaries are so strong that loss of American international military education and training aid is inconsequential. Pakistan is getting spares for American equipment through commercial deals. After initial setback, Pakistan has embarked on upgradations of American equipment with assistance from China and other western [as published] countries. The areas most hit by the stoppage of American military aid are the F-16s, certain numbers of held-up AH-1 attack helicopters which were sent for repairs to America and upgradation of communications, electronics and up-linking in the air defence ground environment system. Pakistan Army is manufacturing armoured personnel carriers with Chinese help, after the American M- 113 APC [armored personnel carrier] project was frozen. It was reported that only 45 of the total 775 contracted M-113 ACPs could be assembled in Pakistan by November 1990.

There is also little possibility of Pakistan and India reducing its conventional forces. This argument perpetrated by non-officials (remember the recent Goa initiative) suggests that both armies, can cut on its offensive focus. The peculiarity of conventional forces of India and Pakistan is that nothing is sacrosanct about its operational taskings. The offensive armour can also be utilised for mobile defence, which means for counter-attack rather than counter-offensive. Bulk of the armour is in a defence posture in armoured brigades and divisional armour regiments. Infantry cannot be reduced as it has to firmly hold the border. A combination of artillery and infantry will be the main strike element along the Line of Control in Kashmir. Suggestions made by Pakistan about its offensive-defensive doctrine are misleading. Enunciated by former Army chief, Gen. Aslam Beg, it means nothing as in a limited war, Pakistan, at operational levels, will always adopt an offensive posture. Given the peculiarity of democracy in Pakistan, its army alone is empowered to take decisions regarding security issues in the subcontinent. Bhutto's visit to America has little to do with the security agenda. And the Americans know it, who are past masters in photo-opportunities and saying much without meaning most of it.

Iran

Officials, Opposition React to Tehran Unrest

Increased Security Continues

NC0604160995 Paris AFP in English 1540 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 6 (AFP)—Iranian authorities beefed up security around public buildings here on Thursday [6 April] following clashes in the poor southern suburbs of the capital in which several people were killed.

Armed police stood watch outside petrol stations, banks and public service buildings which were not guarded before the riots on Tuesday in Akbarabad and Islamshahr.

Witnesses said police had also stepped up checks on vehicles in southern Tehran.

Several petrol stations were set ablaze and public buildings attacked during the riots triggered by public transport price hikes and water shortages. No reliable casualty toll was available Thursday.

Authorities imposed a news blackout and apparently ordered Tehran hospitals to maintain silence about the victims of the clashes in which Revolutionary Guards fired on protesters.

Witnesses interviewed Tuesday said at least 10 people were killed and dozens wounded when the Guards opened fire. It was the first major unrest to reach the outskirts of Tehran since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Clandestine Radio on Losses in Riots

NC0604052395 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1700 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] During the uprising of more than 50,000 persons in Soltanabad, Akbarabad, Islamshahr, Salehabad and [words indistinct] numerous persons were killed or wounded. [Words indistinct]

The uprising of the people who were disgusted at the rising price of goods, especially of fuel, as a result of the intense displeasure and hatred of the people toward the dregs of Khomeyni was so extensive that the repressive organs of the (?regime) were not able to censor the news about it.

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The people who were fed up attacked the main base of Soltanabad and after disarming the Revolution Guards, they moved toward Islamshahr and on their way, they set fire to some gasoline stations especially in the [name indistinct] district, where the base of the basij resistance is located in Salehabad. They also set six branches of the Saderat, Melli, and Tejarat banks ablaze. [Words indistinct]

The regime dispatched the Law Enforcement forces of the Tehran precinct, the special antiriot squads of the (?Corps), and the special task force known as the 'Ashura basij resistance division to the venue of the demonstrations. [Passage indistinct]

In the middle of the streets, the demonstrators set some tires on fire and made Akbarabad the scene of their fiery and wrathful demonstrations. The decrepit and horrified clerics sent their Guards and their brutal basijis to shoot and kill in Akbarabad. According to reliable reports [words indistinct] the special antiriot squads of the Guards' Corps, the 'Ashura division which is comprised of torturers and executioners participated in crushing the uprising of the people of Akbarabad, Soltanabad, and Islamshahr.

Some of the regime's criminal officials, including Bolandiyan, the secretary general of the [regime's] Security Council; Seyyedzadeh, the lackey governor general of Tehran; Shirazi, the political and law enforcement deputy of Tehran Governorate; Brigadier General 'Oqba'i of the Guards Corps, who is the head of the special criminal unit; 'Ali Fazli, the head of the 10th Seyyed osh-Shohada' Division; Agha Mir, the head of the [name indistinct] base, and the highest level of Law Enforcement officials were present in this region and have set up a headquarters to crush the tyrannized people. The tempest of the uprising by the protesters in south Tehran [words indistinct] continued and a large group of valiant clamoring school students joined the protesters. Even now, the fire of the uprising and demonstrations in Islamshahr and Soltanabad continues unabated... [Words indistinct]

Opposition Leader on 'Sweeping' Unrest

MM0604130295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Apr 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Safa Ha'iri: "Tension Continues in Tehran Suburb"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paris—A prominent opponent of the Tehran regime told AL-HAYAH yesterday that Iran is witnessing sweeping internal popular unrest "as a result of the widespread corruption and repressive rule by senior officials." In a telephone statement to AL-HAYAH from his home in Tehran, Daryush Foruhar, leader of the Nation of Iran Party, said that "the country is heading for anarchy if no radical changes are introduced quickly because the people would now seize any opportunity to swoop down on the regime."

The Iranian opposition leader said that he is willing assume power in the coming phase to ensure a quiet transfer of power to a democratic government that would succeed "the rule of the mullahs, to which popular opposition is beginning to appear." AL-HAYAH has learned that the disturbances which occurred in Tehran's southern suburb the day before yesterday resulted in 100 casualties, dead and wounded. The security authorities detained 400 others for interrogation. [passage omitted]

Bani Sadr on Reasons for Protests

BR0604144095 Milan IL GIORNALE in Italian 6 Apr 95 p 15

[Interview with former President Abolhasan Bani Sadr by Alberto Toscano in Paris; date not given: "Too Much Poverty; Iran Rebelling"—first paragraph is IL GIORNALE introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris—The present crisis of the Iranian regime will worsen as a result of the popular demonstrations against rising living costs and corruption, said former President of the Iranian Republic Abolhasan Bani Sadr. Elected after the 1979 revolution, Bani Sadr was driven out the following year in favor of Khomeyni-ite radicalism. He now lives in Paris, where we interviewed him, protected by exceptional security measures.

[Toscano] What are the real figures for the casualties of the recent incidents in Iran?

[Bani Sadr] Some people say only a few people died, others reckon the figure as a few dozen, and others again—people acquainted with the situation in Iran—estimate the figure as even greater. Several international sources that obtain their information directly from Iran are now talking about 48 victims of the repression used against the demonstrations, but I believe, on the basis of the information I have received, that this figure should be tripled. We can talk in terms of 150 casualties. One thing is certain: the scale of the protest demonstrations is much greater than the international news agencies say.

[Toscano] What lies behind this protest?

[Bani Sadr] It is poverty. People abroad think that Iran derives great advantages from the sale of oil, but this is only part of the truth, since the majority of the population have been basically marginalized. The distribution of the recent incidents faithfully maps this new poverty in Iran. The worst spot was in Islamshahr, near the southern outskirts of Tehran. The capital is surrounded by a kind of "poverty belt." The regime used to say that it is precisely there that its basis of social support among the "oppressed" is to be found. Now those oppressed people are rebelling, and they are thus showing that they are not at all the regime's social basis of support.

[Toscano] Poverty has always existed. Why is the "political powder keg" on the outskirts of Tehran exploding right now?

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[Bani Sadr] A frightening increase in the cost of living is talking place. In the past two weeks alone the prices of some food products have increased 40 percent. Even before the present crisis Iranian Government sources themselves admitted that half the population are malnourished or undernourished.

[Toscano] But oil revenue should support the Iranian economy...

[Bani Sadr] There is oil revenue, but there is the military spending and the spending to subsidize terrorism and, for instance, the activities of certain forces operating in Lebanon. There is one problem above all that is causing the crisis of the Iranian economy—the problem of corruption.

[Toscano] Is Iran today more corrupt than under the shah?

[Bani Sadr] Iran today is a thousand times more corrupt than it was then. Corruption is corroding the present regime and is having very serious consequences at the economic level. In Iran today the wealthy are wealthier than ever and the poor are poorer than ever. Even the middle classes are becoming poorer. I have here in my hand a government newspaper that acknowledges the phenomenon of increasing emigration, and this emigration involves the middle classes more and more clearly.

[Toscano] Do you think that what is happening in the Tehran area could be described as a "revolt?"

[Bani Sadr] It can be called a revolt, mainly because the state of mind that is spreading is that of a revolt.

[Toscano] Is it the beginning of the end of this regime?

[Bani Sadr] The end of the regime has been approaching for the past three years because the protest demonstrations have been going on for three years now and, as the latest news shows, they are spreading through the country.

[Toscano] So why do the ayatollahs not fall?

[Bani Sadr] If the regime is not collapsing it is largely thanks to outside help, particularly from the West.

[Toscano] That is a very serious charge. How do you justify it?

[Bani Sadr] The West does not confine itself to buying Iranian oil, but permits the Tehran authorities to remain in control thanks to the continuing debt. Iran's foreign debt totals $41 billion, and the West accepts this situation without demur.

[Toscano] What should the Western countries do?

[Bani Sadr] They must stop giving money to the Iranian regime and start taking seriously such grave problems as fundamentalism. In France there is an election campaign under way at present, in which the issue of fundamentalism is being manipulated on several different sides. The Iranian regime exploits certain Western attitudes to justify itself. In other words: They attack Islam, and we defend it. These problems must be handled very carefully.

[Toscano] Is Russia really selling Iran nuclear materiel?

[Bani Sadr] Not only that, but perhaps it is even reducing its demands for guarantees regarding the use of such technology.

[Toscano] Is Iran manufacturing the nuclear bomb?

[Bani Sadr] There is propaganda to this effect within the armed forces, but I do not believe that the regime is capable of achieving this objective in the short term. I think that its intention is to explode a nuclear bomb rather than to manufacture it. In order to manufacture a nuclear comb it is necessary to manage complex situations, and this regime, being split between different factions, is incapable of managing anything, or almost.

[Toscano] Do you mean that if Iran could "buy" a nuclear bomb, the struggle between the factions would increase with a view to controlling it...

[Bani Sadr] I really do believe so.

Larijani Comments on U.S. Plots Against Iran

LD0604222995 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1845 GMT 6 Apr 95

[Political roundtable with Mohammad Javad Larijani, member of the Islamic Consultative Majles Foreign Policy Committee, moderated by unidentified correspondent—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] The subject of tonight's program is U.S. plots, the politico-propaganda plots by the United States against Islamic Iran. Tonight's respected guest is Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, member of the Islamic Consultative Majles Foreign Policy Committee. We thank him for participating in the program.

The new action by White House officials in waging an all out propaganda, political, economic, and even military war against the Islamic Republic of Iran once again reveals the depth of obstinacy and vindictiveness towards our country's system, revolution, and Muslim people. Efforts to persuade Western allies to impose economic sanctions against Iran, preventing a Japanese loan for development projects in Khuzestan, efforts to rescind a nuclear agreement between Iran and Russia, embarking on provocative military maneuvers in the Persian Gulf, the irrational and illogical arming of the Persian Gulf southern littoral states, making a clamor about an Iranian island in the Persian Gulf being filled with chemical arms and missiles, the cancellation of contracts by U.S. oil companies' foreign subsidiaries with Iran, and many other instances speak of intense propaganda waves, which have been designed and

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enacted by the White House and Pentagon leaders to inflict a blow against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Dr. Larijani, if we want to elaborate on U.S. policies since the inception of the Islamic revolution up to the present time, we know that in various junctures U.S. policies against Iran have been intensified or have gone through diverse courses. Of course those policies have always been against Iran. At present those policies have reached a high: the propaganda policies. How can those policies during the past weeks be summarized?

[Larijani] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I offer my greetings to my dear brethren in the Voice and Vision as well as the respected viewers on the occasion of the [Iranian] New Year.

Briefly, it must be said that policies are always for pursuing certain ulterior motives and interests. U.S. motives in the region can be mainly divided into two sections. One is what they term controlling Iran and the other is the consolidation of U.S. domination over the region—which somehow is connected to us—of U.S. domination in the region. Those include economic interests, political interests, and there is some sort of military domination in the region as well.

U.S. actions can be explained for one of those two motives. For instance, when the Americans come to the region and make a hullabaloo saying Iran has based a large force in some islands or deployed missiles or has deployed chemical weapons in its islands, the objective for that propaganda is quite clear. Naturally, they want to rationalize their presence in the region, to have grounds for selling their arms—that follows from the same policy for consolidating political and economic domination.

However, when they are seeking in the world to prevent countries from selling us arms, giving us technology, or our economic activities are to be somehow hampered within the international regulations, all those are towards the motive—so to speak—of controlling Iran. It may even mean short-term economic losses for them. Therefore, I can briefly ascribe those actions for the pursuance of two objectives. One is what they call controlling Iran, controlling fundamentalism, and the other is consolidation of their domination over the region.

[Correspondent] I want to categorize the issue in a different way, and I do not know how much you will agree with this, it concerns different forms of political pressure against Iran which includes human rights, democracy, and such issues that the West resorts to, as pretexts, in its anti-Iran propaganda. Here we also have issues concerning nuclear energy, bans on the sale of advanced technology, and, in various cases, we have even witnessed pressure on European countries, that you yourself mentioned.

[Larijani] Yes, this is a noteworthy categorization. The politico-propaganda pressure against us began with the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran. A huge wave of propaganda, assisted by U.S. and Western media, was launched to present an ugly face, not only of us, but of Islam and the whole Islamic movement. This is what has been going on and is still continuing.

The political pressure against us has gone through many stages, sometimes it has escalated, sometimes it has lessened and, once again, it has increased recently in verbal form.

U.S. policy has been a hypocritical one in practice. That is, on the one hand, they have pursued economic relations with us, seeking to purchase goods from us and to sell their goods to us, just like any person who owns some kind of goods would. On the other hand, they have asked others not to deal with us to impose some kind of isolation against us.

Concerning nuclear weapons, Washington's hypocritical policy is once again quite clear. We see for example that the Zionist government in Israel does not adhere to any kind of nuclear non-proliferation commitments or the NPT [preceding word in English—Non-Proliferation Treaty] agreement. They even refuse supervision by the International Atomic Energy Agency. The available records show that, of course with U.S. help, they have accessed some kind of nuclear potential [preceding word in English]. There is no mention of such issues. We see no pressure from the U.S. on Israel to sign the NPT. Quite the opposite, they shamelessly say they understand Israeli considerations.

However, they tell Iran—Iran that has adhered to all such agreements and has accepted very open international supervision—that you should not use nuclear technology for non-military purposes. That is a fundamentally wrong thing to say. It is the right of any nation to access industrial achievements in the important field of energy.

Our country is fortunately rich in resources, but our mines and energy resources, on the basis of reasonable and realistic estimates, would last up to half a century or more, God willing. Today we should think of our nation's energy for future years and future decades. It is natural that we have included the use of nuclear reactors in our energy policies. It is the right of our nation; as it is the right of any other nation.

[Correspondent] If you agree, I will continue the discussion by saying that the Americans have embarked on two types of action. One is indirect pressure levers—beside the pressure levers that they themselves directly employ— against European states and Iran's neighboring states to which you also referred: concerning the neighboring states—the theory of fear. In the case of the European states, it concerned limiting countries' cooperation with Iran or preventing the sale of advanced technology to Iran. What do you think of that?

[Larijani] Concerning the Persian Gulf region, in particular, as you mentioned, the U.S. strategy is to instill fear

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in our Arab brethren in the region towards us and create distance. The benefits of such an act are quite clear. If those brethren become frightened of us, it will be natural if they rely more on the United States, if they seek to buy more arms, and so forth. That is most detrimental to the region. The Persian Gulf region is our home, ours and our Arab brethren's. Naturally the security of a house is the most important thing for its household. A highwayman has come and has claims on the security. The future of the region does not exist if the members of the household are distant from each other.

The Americans may be lining their pockets today, but what about the future? The future depends on us and our Arab brethren—all the countries that are around the Persian Gulf region—to sit together and make the region flourish, use the resources of the region, cooperate with each other.

Regarding the international scene, while I have serious doubts about the success of such policies in the world today, I believe the effects of that policy are negative for all the international community. Our slogan has been that after the Cold War we move towards a comfortable international community in which cooperation is not based on pressure, but on free and rational competition.

We see that the United States which is the standard-bearer for such a comfortable and relaxed [policy] at the international level, has exactly contrary policies itself. Bullying and exerting pressure takes away the comfortable situation from the international scene. I think that the U.S. action is a threat to international peace, tranquillity, and stability. It is unlikely for world political observers and statesmen to accept that so easily. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Dr. Larijani, it is a press topic that the state which assists the United States is the Zionist regime. Which one of them leads and which follows? Do the Israelis have the leading role in the region or the Americans? In any case, there is a debate as to which one comes first. How do you see Israel's role?

[Larijani] Of course Israel is too small to be a very influential element in the region by itself. It is a rootless state which even for its ordinary existence has to rely on the outside. Therefore, the Americans are the ones who have nurtured Israel in the region. Their interests require Israel to be dominant in the whole of the region. Naturally, it is the Israelis' misfortune that they have to continue that course. Of course Zionism is a wider network than Israel itself and I do not believe it to be unlikely that the interests of Zionism may come to some sort of conflict with the continued existence of Israel or for them to have any compunction in dragging Israel into an adverse situation. We have examples in history where Zionists have killed hundreds, even thousands of Jews and destroyed them. Zionism goes beyond the Israeli element. The motives and objectives of Zionism, of course, have been in conflict with the interests of the United States as a country, with the United States's national interests as a nation. We have had that in history before. Two or three presidential terms ago, General Brown was the U.S. joint chief of staff. He resigned because he said: What I do today is not to the benefit of my country's interests, but to the benefit of another government called Israel. There is such a conflict. However, on the whole Israel is too weak and small to have any influence in the region by itself.

[Correspondent] In the past we used to witness propaganda attacks on Iran by the Zionist regime, but now, and in recent weeks, such attacks are carried out directly by the United States. Why is that?

[Larijani] Of course the Americans have carried out acts of aggression against us in the past too. On the whole, a major and effective country cannot live without acts of aggression against it. More stones are thrown at a tree that bears more fruit. Acts of aggression against us by major countries not only do not weaken and frighten us but prove the effectiveness of our government in the world. However, it is unfortunate that the Americans have even abandoned diplomatic politeness and that shows that they have in fact lost their objectivity [vaqe' bini]. A politician should be a realist and calculate his own interests so that he does not give in to his feelings.

I believe that possibly domestic political U.S. factions have some effect on many cases, particularly those in recent days. Mr. Clinton is facing domestic political problems, which, of course, is their own business, but such problems have apparently forced the government to put on a very positive foreign policy performance. [passage omitted]

Bearing in mind that elections are close, the U.S. politicians' behavior shows signs of panic, and that is tangible. I believe that a part of their sharp remarks are intended for domestic consumption. At the same time, as a country and as a nation with vast resources and with a huge network of foreign relations that we enjoy—our relations are today almost double what they were before the victory of the revolution—we live in a very complex and open world. We have extensive possibilities for our movements and we respond to aggression in a very calm manner. There is no reason for us to panic like the Washington men. We pursue our own interests.

[Correspondent] Do you think that U.S. aims are limited to the above or are there more?

[Larijani] Of course, it is possible to categorize the aims in due course. The U.S.-made issue of fundamentalism is serious. The greater part of the Islamic world and the Islamic countries are under U.S. dominance. the United States has extensive economic and political interests in this dominance. We are the standard bearer who refuses any form of domination, be it by the United States, Britain, or any other country. We should be independent, work according to our own culture, and develop our resources. We say that the Islamic world is full of intelligent and capable people and that we should wake

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up. These slogans are very difficult for the United States. Maybe they did not feel threatened at the beginning. They thought that the movement was limited to Iran. But today you see that Muslims in Egypt are following the same philosophy. They are saying the same things in Algeria. They are saying the same thing in occupied Palestine. This is an extensive movement. If this movement succeeds it will threaten the interests of those who dominate the Islamic world, including the Americans. But they do not know what to do. They should have revised their wrong policies when they came up against the problem. Why dominate? The era of domination is over. But they say that the source of the movement is Iran so there is a need to contain Iran. This movement is greater than Iran. It is a movement of the Islamic world. I think that U.S. policies in containing fundamentalism were doomed to failure from the beginning.

[Unidentified audience member] They are implementing policies, such as the recent oil embargo, to contain Iran. Some U.S. officials, including the secretaries of the treasury and commerce, have expressed their opposition. What is the impact of these policies on U.S. oil companies?

[Larijani] Of course, the limits of their policy are not very clear. One can imagine that in its advanced form companies will be denied trade with Iran. Naturally, this is limiting the sphere of competition for the companies. They will be in a weaker position in comparison to other companies. I think it will increase oil prices. Therefore, the result will not be too bad for us. As for the sale of oil, I think the impact will be very, very little or even nonexistent.

[Audience member] Forgive me Dr. Larijani. What do you think are the effects of U.S. policies, which are trying to limit Iran? Are they going to limit Iran's oil market or Iran's sale? Are they going to have other effects? I would be grateful if you could explain this.

[Larijani] As I have pointed out, the impact on the Iranian oil market will be minimal or even insignificant. Oil has many customers in the world. Naturally there will be customers. Its impact on the larger fuel market is to create an imbalance in the market. Balance is created through natural competition. When pressure is exerted to limit several participants in the game, for whatever reason, the market naturally loses its balance. The initial results from the imbalance are twofold. On the one hand, for the participants it has been limited, that is the U.S. companies. On the other hand, it results in a price increase. In an unbalanced market prices always go up. The prices might come down at a later stage. But the initial impact of an imbalance in the market is to push up the prices. Naturally there are impacts on the consumers as well as producers of fuels. I do not think the impact for the Americans, at least in the initial stages, is going to be positive whatsoever.

[Correspondent] Allow me to ask the last question. What is Iran's reaction to such ploys?

[Larijani] Iran's reaction is this: First of all we shall continue our path of progress and our national policy with confidence, with confidence in our capabilities, with confidence in our vigilant and intelligent nation, and, most important of all, with confidence in the divine power, because we are right. God willing, we shall continue our aims. We are not standard bearers of fights and wars in the world. Neither are we standard bearers of tension and disturbance in the world. We are standard bearers of truth, peace, negotiation, and restraint in the use of force. I think our logic is attractive to the world. We never planed our progress with dependence on others. So we are not worried. We have assumed that not only the United States but no other country is our source of dependence. We are depending on ourselves. This is the most important achievement of our revolution. But independence has its difficulties. A person may receive high wages but he may be a servant. He is a servant. Someone who is living by his own labor may have a smaller income but he is his own master. This is us in the world today. For the past 150 years, no Iranian Government has been as independent. All those governments received their orders from someone else. We are our own masters. We have certain capabilities. God willing, with a determined will our country is going toward its national aims, which are national development and coexistence with the world. This is our path. We shall repulse any tension. Everyone knows that we do not accept threats. Threats against Iran are a joke. The world knows it. We have no doubts in defending our interests, sovereignty, and territory. We see no need to get angry. This self confidence makes the powers very worried. They cannot understand how powerful we are.

[Correspondent] I thank you Mr. Larijani for your presence in the program and for your time.

[Larijani] Thank you.

Opposition Supports Sanctions, Democracy

TA0604155195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Clinton administration is drafting plans to raise sanctions on Tehran that include banning U.S. firms from buying its oil. American firms are among the top buyers of Iranian oil, pumping an estimated $4.5 billion into Iran's economy annually. [passage omitted]

The president of Iran's Human Rights Association, who is now in exile in France, says the American efforts are long overdue. Dr. Manuchehr Ganji told reporter Mikhal Wachsman that he believes the sanctions would help the democratic opposition:

[Begin recording] [Ganji] That would be in favor of the opposition, because people of Iran are not going to miss much. There are already shortages of everything inside Iran. That thing will have a great psychological effect, provided they make it clear that it is against the regime

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and not against the people of Iran, because people of Iran are hostage to that regime. This is not a regime of their choosing; maybe, yes, 16 years ago, yes, because the regime pretended that it was a regime for democracy, for respect of freedom and human rights, but not today. So actions....[pauses] I hope it's high time for U.S. and the Western democracies to show that they support freedom movements in Iran.

[Wachsman] Is this opposition strong enough and forceable enough to put down the Rafsanjani authorities in Iran?

[Ganji] You could have asked the same question from the Czech people right before the overthrow of the Soviet and communist regime in Czechoslovakia; you could have asked the Bulgarians; you could have asked the East Germans. Nobody knew when the Berlin Wall was going to fall. One thing is for certain: Iran is part of this world, and within the past 100 years, Iranians have been showing over and over and over again that they are against dictatorship, that they are against totalitarian systems and against fascist regimes like the one which is in Iran, which copies Hitler and Stalin. So, definitely, definitely, Mr. Rafsanjani and Mr. Khamene'i would better get out of Iran.

[Wachsman] What, in your opinion, will we see in the new Iran you are talking about in two years from now?

[Ganji] Definitely Iran will be a democratic Iran. Iran will take its rightful place amongst the civilized nations of the world as a law-respecting and abiding country. It will take its place in the United Nations, and it will entertain the best of relations with the rest of the countries, including yours. [end recording]

Commentary Views Bhutto's U.S. Visit

NC0604094195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 6 Apr 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrived in the United States yesterday at the head of a high-ranking political-economic delegation. During her stay in the United States she will hold talks on Islamabad's nuclear strength and bilateral relations.

U.S.-Pakistani relations have witnessed many ups and downs since 1990 with the two countries' differences in the political and national security fields creating friction in these relations. By alleging that Pakistan intends to use its nuclear industries to make atomic weapons, in 1990 the United States approved a bill known as the Pressler Amendment, halting all its military and economic aid to Pakistan. The major objective behind Bhutto's visit to the United States is to discuss the abrogation of this law and to convince the Americans to change their position on Pakistan's nuclear issues.

Some of Pakistan's political and religious circles have speculated that Bhutto will stop nuclear programs under American pressure, but before leaving Islamabad she rejected the possibility of any type of reconciliation with Washington's rulers.

Political observers believe that during her stay in America the Pakistani prime minister will try to make the U.S. leaders, Congressmen in particular, understand that continuing pressure from Washington on Islamabad will not help toward the objective of preventing the spread of nuclear arms in South Asia. It seems that the coordinated policy of the Pakistani Government and the opposition as far as Pakistan's nuclear industries are concerned will render the U.S. Administration's efforts to impose its bullying policies futile and will force it to review its policy on imposing economic sanctions on Pakistan.

Clinton-Major Relationship Discussed

LD0504221195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 5 Apr 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The U.S. President Bill Clinton and the British Premier John Major have met and conferred in the Oval Office on 4 April, discussing announcing economic pressures on the Islamic Republic of Iran. The agreement reached between Major and Clinton to restrict the fields for the expansion of economic activities, like the development of Iran's oil resources, was the opening chapter in the statements made by the White House spokesman when addressing the reporters.

No doubt the U.S. President and the British prime minister have significant points related to the regional issues and crises as well as issues of mutual interest to discuss. But the point that the intensification of pressures against the Islamic revolution has dominated these talks speaks of the West's concern over endangering its regional interests. The White House spokesman, Michael McCurry, has told reporters on Tuesday that the United States tries to make its European allies and Japan to coordinate their policies with the U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf. It is, however, clear that Britain and United States have acted against the Islamic Republic of Iran since the early days of the establishment of the Islamic Republic. During the Reagan Administration, however, the United States and the premiership of Mrs. Thatcher in Britain the London-Washington ties against the Islamic Republic of Iran reached a stage where the world political observers called this alliance Reagan-Thatcher honeymoon. This honeymoon has turned cold a little bit during the Clinton Administration in Washington and Major in London over the differences about Bosnia-Herzegovina and the visit by IRA's political wing leader Jerry Adams. It was expected that these acute issues would be placed in the priority list of talks between the two countries. But the statements made by

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the White House spokesman speak of the fact that Britain and the United States have first of all taken into consideration their common aspects and both countries laid special emphasis on the progress of the Compromise Plan in the Middle East and therefore exerting further pressure on the Islamic Iran.

There is no doubt that Britain pursuance of the U.S. is the humiliating attempt by London to be mooted a first class European power. But in this visit, like those in the past, Mr. Major will win nothing but repeating an already-told story—which the United States has sung its savage songs against the Islamic Republic of Iran—and has won nothing. London and Washington will reach nowhere with this meeting.

Commentary on 'Uneasiness' of U.S.-Egyptian Ties

LD0504223095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 5 Apr 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, who is currently on a tour in the U.S., had a meeting today, 5 April, with the American chief executive, Bill Clinton. Informed sources considering the questions emerging during the past few months in the U.S. Egypt relations have described Mubarak's visit to the U.S. and his meeting with Clinton as important. Cairo-Washington ties, having been called strategic by both sides, has suffered some kind of uneasiness which the two sides have tried to avoid to become further aggravated.

Experts believe that Mubarak's visit to Washington and his meeting with the American officials concentrate on several axes. First is the explanation of Egypt's present stand towards the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, NPT. In this respect, although Egyptian president has made the re-inking of the mentioned Treaty conditional on a similar action by the Zionist regime, the sporadic stands so far taken indicate that Egyptian officials, considering the type of its relations with Washington and Tel Aviv, are seeking some guarantees to be given by Israel and the U.S. for the joining of Tel Aviv to the said treaty. This means that Egyptian official are raising this issue to the extent that it would affect their relations with the U.S.

Furthermore, the Egyptian president, in the course of his visit to the U.S., attempts to secure the continuation of Washington's military and economic aids to Cairo, amounting to some $2.5 billion. This is important because Al Gore, the U.S. vice president, who visited Cairo last month, has put forward the idea of Egypt's participation for its economic growth instead of granting foreign aids to Egypt. Meanwhile Egyptian officials demonstrate the significant role that these aids play for Egyptian Government's preservation of stability and security.

Considering the compromise of Cairo and Tel Aviv and Egypt's role in the region for speeding up the trend of compromise, it appears that with the activation of the mentioned trend Egyptian officials are concerned and annoyed at the fact that their role and standing is gradually disparaging. For this reason Egypt's president plans to show that Egypt is still the main axis of compromise in the region.

Commentary on Secretary Perry's Moscow Visit

LD0504213995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 5 Apr 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry, in continuation of U.S. efforts to place greater pressure on Iran, rounded up his visit to Moscow. William Perry left Moscow in conditions when he was seen off with outright words of [Russian Foreign Minister Andrey] Kozyrev to the effect that Russia does not get permission from anyone for cooperation with Iran. [as received] Such statements by an official Russian authority in fact implies full defeat of the American policy of disrupting cooperation agreement between Iran and Russia in the area of peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The U.S. Administration in the past few months has exerted greater pressure to isolate Iran. The main axis of American activity in this respect revolves round levelling groundless charges against Iran—for example, the accusation that Iran is making atomic weapons. The accusation is raised at a time when the International Atomic Energy Organization has so far declared, on many occasions, that Iran's peaceful nuclear activities in production of power is fully in accord with existing international standards. Furthermore the organization has inspected Iran's atomic energy installation once in a while. Washington, however, hoped that it could harmonize other countries with its own policies against Iran through the efforts made by the U.S. defense secretary in the past recent weeks.

The decisive stand of different countries against the American subtle policies, however, is regarded as a resolute defeat for the White House. Today, the U.S. accuses Iran of protecting terrorism, manufacturing nuclear weapons, and violating human rights. This comes at a time when Washington itself is the main factor for the support of state terrorism and violation of fundamental human rights in the world. The American black record in defending Israel's terrorist operations in the Middle East as well as its backing of regimes committing the most savage acts against their own citizens indicate that the real nature of the American empty slogans for defending human rights and suppressing terrorism. In fact, the significant problem of the White House in confronting with Iran is related to the fact that the U.S. desires Iran to join the new world order, like the other U.S. allies. Islamic Republic of Iran, however, inspired by its declared independent principle of

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denying any form of subjugation to bullying powers is standing against Washington's imperialist policies.

Clinton's Comments on Russian Nuclear Ties Noted

NC0504070795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 5 Apr 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although Washington's efforts to end the peaceful Russian-Iranian nuclear cooperation have failed thus far, U.S. President Bill Clinton said yesterday that Washington will continue its discussions with Moscow to urge Russia to halt the sale of a nuclear reactor for the Bushehr Power Plant.

Political analysts believe that America's new policies toward Iran constitute a fresh effort that disregards the failure of past futile efforts. Since the victory of Iran's Islamic Revolution, America has given top priority in its list of regional and world policies to its plots to overthrow the Islamic Revolution. However, with its steadfastness and selflessness, the Muslim and heroic Iranian nation has thwarted all these military, economic, and political plots. What is noteworthy in all this is that the proud Iranian nation has not only thwarted these plots, but that—despite America's direct and indirect pressures—in its First Five-Year Economic Plan it was able to reconstruct a major part of the essential infrastructures of its economy and to pave the way for this country's independence and self-sufficiency.

America's commotion over the Iranian islands [in the Persian Gulf] and the White House's efforts to give a military character to the issue are among the evidence of this. By investing on most of the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf, Islamic Iran paved the way for these islands' economic prosperity, thus creating many attractions for foreign investment. Therefore, one can say that Washington's recent efforts to attribute a military character to these islands is an effort to halt the rapid development process in Iran. And America's efforts to prevent the construction of the Bushehr Power Plant are also among these efforts.

Of course, in America's current efforts to create obstacles for Iran's all-round development, Washington is also trying to direct Russia's foreign policy toward its own interests and to prevent Russia from taking independent action.

Railway Transportation Accord Signed With Russia

LD0704080095 Tehran IRNA in English 0616 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 7, IRNA—Iran and Russia have agreed to resume transportation of goods through railway between the two countries. According to an agreement signed by deputy Iranian transportation minister and the Russian deputy railway minister here Thursday, the two sides said they would take necessary measures to resume transport of goods through Jolfa border.

They also agreed to hold a meeting attended by representatives of Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia to explore ways to implement the agreement. The agreement further decided to study possibilities to make sea-railway transportation in the Caspian Sea.

Joint Russian Shipping Company To Form

LD0704082995 Tehran IRNA in English 0807 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 7, IRNA—Russia and Iran have agreed to form a joint shipping company, establish a new shipping line in the Caspian Sea and build ships and sea equipment.

In an agreement signed for Iran by Transportation Minister Akbar Torkan and for Russia by his counterpart Vitaliy Yefimov Thursday, Russia voiced readiness to let Iranian ships use the Russian port of Astrakhan as of 1st July 1995 in an attempt to increase exchange and transport of goods between the two countries.

It was also decided that before making final preparations in the port, two Iranian ships carry the goods to be displayed at Iran's exhibition in Astrakhan, to the port. They also agreed to continue talks to sign an agreement on air transportation.

An expert session in Tehran will soon study setting up of a new air link between Astrakhan and Gilan Province in northern Iran as well.

Torkan arrived in Moscow Monday upon the invitation of his Russian counterpart at the head of a ranking delegation. He held talks with Russian officials and inspected ports and transportation facilities of the republic's Astrakhan Province and returned to Tehran Thursday evening.

Turkish Withdrawal of Troops From Iraq Demanded

NC0604131595 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Apr 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Turkish Incursion Into Northern Iraq Must Stop Now"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In an attempt to resolve its Kurdish question, the government in Ankara has taken a heavy-handed approach by dispatching 35,000 troops deep into the Iraqi Kurdistan territory to smash the forces of Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

To tone down its harsh treatment of the Kurdish people in Iraq, the Ankara government has also decided to send in 12,000 tons of humanitarian aid to Iraqi Kurdish civilians.

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Meanwhile, international criticism has mounted against Turkey. Several countries have called on Turkey to call off its incursion to Iraq. European countries are afraid that Turkey might stay in northern Iraq for a long time, perhaps permanently. The Turkish occupation of northern Iraq is going to endanger its much valued ties to the European Union and its status as a NATO member.

The greatest blunder by Ankara was that they could actually move into a rough terrain like Iraqi Kurdistan and successfully hunt down the PKK fighters. The military analysts who made the Ankara government believe that a swift victory against PKK was ever possible must have been quite uninitiated in the art of counter-insurgency.

As the occupation has lingered, it has become evident that the main victims of the Kurdish invasion are the Kurdish people. So far victimized by Saddam's Ba'thist forces and by the ruthless internecine fighting between Kurdish factions, the Kurdish people are now further victimized by foreign troops invading their land in search of guerrillas who are nowhere to be found. By virtue of being guerrillas, the PKK fighters will move in deeper into Kurdistan's territory, disappear and appear when the Turkish forces are gone.

The Turkish presence on the Iraqi territory is against international law. International law might permit pre-emptive attacks on bases outside one's country, but it does not permit any incursion of the sort Turkey has had in a neighbor country.

The United States, in executing its evil intentions to weaken Muslim nations, has given, for all intents and purposes, the green light to the Turks to tread on Iraqi territory. The fact remains that it is not in Turkey's best interest to continue its military presence in its neighbor's territory. Among the ways to counter the presence of PKK operatives on Turkish territory, military presence in northern Iraq is the least effective and most harmful. The officials in Ankara would be acting in the interest of Turkey if they recalled the troops home today.

Operation Said Not to Ankara's Benefit

NC0604150295 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 3 Apr 95 p 15

[Unattributed commentary: "What Does Turkey Want From Iraq?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The joint border of Turkey and Iraq witnessed its most turbulent period in the past two weeks. The separate battles between the rebel Kurds in Iraq and Turkey and the government forces of those two countries resulted in heavy casualties. The unbridled blitzkrieg by the Turkish air and land forces deep inside Iraq's northern territory has made things extremely tense and complex. But such is the extent and intensity of this aggression that its importance is heightened for the Kurd-inhabited regions of Turkey and Iraq more than for any other party to this crisis.

The aggressive operations of the Turkish forces inside Iraq have encountered the unequivocal opposition of foreign countries, especially European governments in general and the German Government in particular. These countries have adopted considerable punitive political and economic measures to deter the Turks from continuing their aggression against Iraq. The fierce aggression by land and air carried out by Turkey against Iraqi territory appears to be the most intense in the past decade. It indicates the political impasse in Ankara's main policy regarding its convergence and extensive cooperation with the aggressive Western powers for the partition of Iraq's territory and the severing of many of the northern areas from Baghdad's control.

In the three years since the oil war the Turkish echelons have clearly realized that assisting in the partitioning of Iraq and exercising complicity with the rejected and condemned "Poised Hammer" policy are abhorrent and dishonorable and can swiftly threaten even Ankara's national sovereignty over an important part of its eastern and southern regions.

In the years after the north of Iraq was separated from Baghdad's control, this area became a sanctuary for rebel Kurdish groups from Turkey, groups that were considered a potential threat for the territorial integrated and national sovereignty of that country. Thus the Turkish Government realized that with a population of 14 million Kurds in at least eight of its provinces, it will be the first and greatest loser in the creation of a Kurdistan that is independent of Baghdad and Ankara and that is situated near their respective borders.

The flames of the conflagration ignited by the West in northern Iraq by using Turkey will reach Turkey first. This reality and irrevocable economic losses due to the continuing economic embargo against Iraq have affected Turkey and motivated it to resort to extending its repressive policies against the rebel secessionists inside Iraq and to directly assist the Iraqi regime in reining in the secessionist struggles of the Kurds of Iraq.

Accordingly, in the past few years, we have witnessed the improvement of Iraqi-Turkish relations. The international mass media have carried numerous reports of the tightening of the dragnet by the Turkish forces around the dissident Kurdish groups inside Turkish territory and in northern Iraq.

Thus the latest policy of the Turkish forces based on broadening the scope of their military operations in the northern regions of Iraq will not improve things in this region; it will serve to worsen the disarray and instability in the area.

Naturally the negative and deleterious effects of this instability on the region, especially on Turkey, cannot be ignored. Turkey's policy in northern Iraq can be construed as overt aggression against the border of a neighboring country; it cannot be projected as legitimate in any guise. It is not to the benefit of Ankara to expand the

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dimensions of the sedition and mischiefmaking that the Americans have fomented in the region, especially during the past three years. This sedition and mischief is something they seek to intensify.

Turkish Envoy Interviewed on Northern Iraq

NC0604054395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 6 Apr 95

[From the "News Reports" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] This week's political report is devoted to an interview by our correspondent with the Turkish ambassador in Tehran.

As you know, Turkish forces began military operations inside Iraqi territory about 15 days ago. Officials in Ankara have said that the objective behind these operations is to crush the rebel guerrillas.

Our correspondent interviewed Mr. Balkan, Turkish ambassador in Tehran, and asked him to comment on the violation of Iraqi sovereignty and the differing comments by Turkish officials on the continuation of the military operations in northern Iraq. We invite you to listen to a written report on this interview.

Pointing out that the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey agree on Iraq's territorial integrity, Mr. Balkan said that the presence of the Turkish forces in northern Iraq is due to the power vacuum in the region and said:

[Begin Balkan recording in Turkish, fading into Persian translation read by studio announcer] The Turkish Government has informed the Iraqi Government of this. For various reasons, the Iraqi Government is unable to exercise its sovereignty in this region, and the Turkish Government is responsible for safeguarding the civilians' rights in southern Turkey. [end recording]

The ambassador said that the objective behind the Turkish forces' operations in northern Iraq is to annihilate the Kurdish rebels and to destroy their arms depots in the region, and added: There are no differences of opinion among Ankara officials on these operations and on how long the Turkish forces will remain in northern Iraq. He added: The time for the withdrawal of the Turkish forces from northern Iraq cannot be determined now. But what is clear is that Turkey does not intend to be in northern Iraq long, and when it withdraws from the region, it will take the necessary measures to prevent a repetition of this problem.

Pointing out that Turkey's prolonged presence in northern Iraq is not to Ankara's benefit, Mr. Balkan said: The rebel guerrillas are violating human rights in the region and many Turkish civilians have been killed in these guerrilla operations. He clarified: When a 35,000-strong army is deployed in a region, some problems may be inevitable.

Newspapers Report on Unrest in Bahrain

NC0604204195

[FBIS Editorial Report] Iranian newspapers, which have not yet resumed full-scale publication since the end of the Nowruz holidays, have carried sparse reportage on the unrest in Bahrain.

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian dated 29 March carries a report on its last page, page eight, entitled "A New Outburst of Unrest in Bahrain Results in Eight Killed." The IRNA report from Beirut states: "In the unrest in Bahrain in the past few days, six civilians and two policemen have been killed. It has also been reported that 10 persons were arrested in this connection."

The report adds: "According to IRNA, a newspaper published in Beirut states that the unrest in Bahrain, which began last December, continues as before; and in the past few days six civilians and two policemen have been killed.

"AFP reports from Nicosia that the newspaper AL-HAYAH in its Tuesday [27 March] edition cited official sources in Manama as saying that 10 Bahrainis have been arrested on charges of killing Rashid Sa'id, a policeman, last Wednesday. This report adds that opponents of the Bahraini government in London said that when the body of Rashid Sa'id was found, the area was surrounded by security forces, who ransacked houses and arrested people on the pretext of seeking out the suspects."

Tehran ABRAR in Persian on 4 April carries a report under the headline: "The Bahraini Government's Efforts To Foment War Between Shiites and Sunnis." It says: "The opponents of the Bahraini government have accused the security apparatus of that country of trying to generate religious differences by disseminating statements ascribed to Shiites and Sunnis. According to the newspaper AL-SAFIR, the spokesman of the committee for coordination among the national liberation fronts and the people of Bahrain said that popular protests continue in the cities and villages and are growing. The government continues to suppress the demonstrators."

The ABRAR report continues: "In any case, reports from Bahrain indicate that the people's protests have assumed a new form and are centered mostly in the schools outside the capital. Meanwhile, Bahraini dissidents have assured the foreigners resident on the island that they are not in any danger.

"According to AL-SAFIR, a statement by the 'AHRAR' movement opposed to the Bahraini government says: 'Once again we emphasize that neither you nor your families will be harmed in any way. We do not have any differences with you. We have not set fire to the electricity generating plant and we will not do so. These are just false claims by the government, which wants to tarnish our movement's image.'

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"The government newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ carried an editorial last week indirectly mentioning the resumption of demonstrations. Meanwhile, following the arrest of the combatant cleric Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir al-Jamri, the Bahraini armed forces raided the residence of 'Imran Husayn 'Imran, one of the other leaders of the uprising. They beat him up and dragged him outside his house and even shot and wounded his two daughters when they tried to prevent their father's arrest."

This arrest is also mentioned on page 16 of Tehran ETTELA'AT in its 3 April edition, under the headline "Arrests in Bahrain." The report, which is attributed to AFP in Nicosia, says:

"During the arrest of a Shiite, 'Abdal Mir al-Jamri, which took place last Saturday [1 April] at least two people were killed. According to Shaykh Mansur al-Jamri—the son of the arrested man, who lives in London—law enforcement forces fired on two people who were trying to save his father from being arrested and killed them."

The ETTELA'AT report continues: "A Shiite group opposed to the Bahraini government and which is based abroad called on the Bahrainis on Sunday to initiate a civil disobedience movement in order to pressure the government for political reform and to protest against the suppression of the government's opponents. On the other hand, the Bahraini Interior Ministry announced on Sunday that the Bahraini police had arrested two persons in connection with the killing of a policeman and the wounding of two others.

"The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' in its Sunday issue called for financial assistance for Bahrain in order to extricate the country from its economic crisis. According to AFP, the editorial in that newspaper's editorial in yesterday's edition commented: The difficult economic situation stems from the decrease in Bahrain's income as compared to other Persian Gulf countries, and this has had adverse repercussions on the livelihoods of a large portion of the population of Bahrain, culminating in mounting unemployment among Bahraini youths."

Citing an ASSOCIATED PRESS report, Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian on 4 April carries a report on page 15 which states: "In order to end the political unrest that has consumed the country since last winter, the Amir of Bahrain met Shiite leaders and held talks with them. According to AP, this meeting took place on Sunday, after disturbances broke out in the Shiite neighborhoods of Manama. According to reports, two persons were killed in these incidents. In their meeting with the Amir of Bahrain, the leaders of the Bahraini Shiites called for freedom for all Shiite prisoners, the return of all political exiles, and the relaxation of the stringent security measures in the Shiite areas. AP reports that it is not yet clear whether the government has acquiesced to these demands or not."

On the same page, HAMSHAHRI carries another brief report directly beneath the above one, with the headline: "Lebanon's Hizballah Denies Involvement in the Events in Bahrain and Algeria." The report says: "The Lebanese Hizballah have disseminated a statement rebutting allegations of some officials of Bahrain and Algeria regarding the training of the opponents of these two regimes by Hizballah members. According to an IRNA report from Beirut, the Hizballah statement, which was issued in Beirut yesterday, the statement says: Hizballah categorically denies any links, direct or indirect, to what is happening in Bahrain and Algeria. The statement also says: The remarks by the officials of these two countries are proof in themselves that they are at an impasse in their own respective countries, and by leveling such accusations, they are striving to shift the responsibility for their country's disarray onto foreign elements."

Rafsanjani Trip to Khuzestan Province Viewed

NC0604102195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 6 Apr 95

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani began his four-day visit to Khuzestan province yesterday and was warmly welcomed by the hard-working, martyr-nurturing, and resistant people who had been waiting for hours in the streets.

The unprecedented welcome by the people of the president's visit to a province that suffered much damage during the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war manifests the depth of the devotion of the Khuzestani people to the revolution and is a good lesson for all those who are trying futilely through various plots to separate the people from the Islamic system. The zeal of the brave Khuzestani people in welcoming the president also manifests the firm determination of the enthusiastic people of the province in continuing their efforts for the reconstruction of the war regions.

One of the objectives behind the president's visit to Khuzestan is to inspect the reconstruction process and the development projects that are being implemented. During the years between 1368 and 1373 [beginning 21 March 1989 and ending 20 March 1995], the reconstruction of 73,000 houses that were damaged during the war in Abadan, Khorramshahr, and Dasht-e Azadegan was completed. During the same period 2,700 classrooms were built and 560,000 emigrants of the imposed war returned to their homes.

It should be noted that in view of the natural situation and the rich water and land resources in Khuzestan province, this province is of extraordinary significance for the agricultural sector, and in addition to its oil and gas resources, it is also favorably located as far as the expansion of foreign trade with the southern Persian Gulf littoral states. In addition to attracting credits for reconstruction, the government has also implemented

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large national projects such as the reconstruction of the Abadan Refinery and the Bandar-e Emam Khomeyni Petrochemical Complex and the dredging of the Karun River.

It should also be added that we have a long way to go to use this province's resources as best as possible. However, the basic and fundamental movement has commenced and the series of visits by the president and executive officials are proof that development programs are being followed up.

The president's visit to Khuzestan is a good opportunity for the people and the officials to discuss problems with him on the spot and to join hands in striving to push matters forward.

Pakistan

Sindh Chief: Anti-Terrorism Efforts 'Successful'

BK0604153395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sindh Chief Minister Syed Abdullah Shah has said that efforts to control violence and terrorism in Karachi have been successful and that these efforts will continue until such activities are completely eliminated. He made these observations while presiding over a meeting held to review the law and order situation in Karachi. The meeting was told about the recovery of illegal arms and the plans to arrest the terrorists.

The police have arrested 74 criminals in Karachi and recovered arms, narcotics, and banned items from them.

Sindh Members Implicated in 'Terrorist' Activities

BK0704051395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An alleged terrorist, Javed Qureshi, arrested by Rangers after a firing incident in Pak Colony area on the 12th of last month in Karachi, has disclosed that three members of the Sindh Assembly were involved in masterminding violence and procuring weapons. The terrorist has confessed that the firing was carried out after special instructions from Dr. Imran Farooq. He also disclosed that the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement]-Altaf Group high command does not consider all its MPA's [members of provincial assembly] reliable for terrorist activities and relies only on three named by him. According to an official handout, the Rangers are making efforts to arrest other terrorists pinpointed by the arrested person.

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